

# HIGHER EDUCATION

## Lesson 3



# WORDS EASILY CONFUSED

## University studies

Students who attend university in the UK start with **undergraduate studies**, which are usually the studies towards a **bachelor's degree** [a first degree at university]. They follow a **programme** of different **modules** [parts of the university course]. They usually have to complete a certain number of **credits** each year. For example, if the students need 180 credits, they might take two modules of 60 credits each, and their **dissertation** [long piece of writing] might be worth another 60 credits. When they have **graduated** [completed their bachelor's degree], students become **graduates**.

If they want to continue their university education, students can begin **postgraduate studies**. The first stage of this would be a **master's degree**, and after that they can do a **PhD** (doctor of philosophy) [the highest university degree]. Postgraduate studies require students to specialise in a particular **field**, and they often do **research**. They usually have to write another dissertation (for a master's degree) or a **thesis** (for a PhD).

## People, places, and types of classes



**A university campus**



**A lecture theatre**

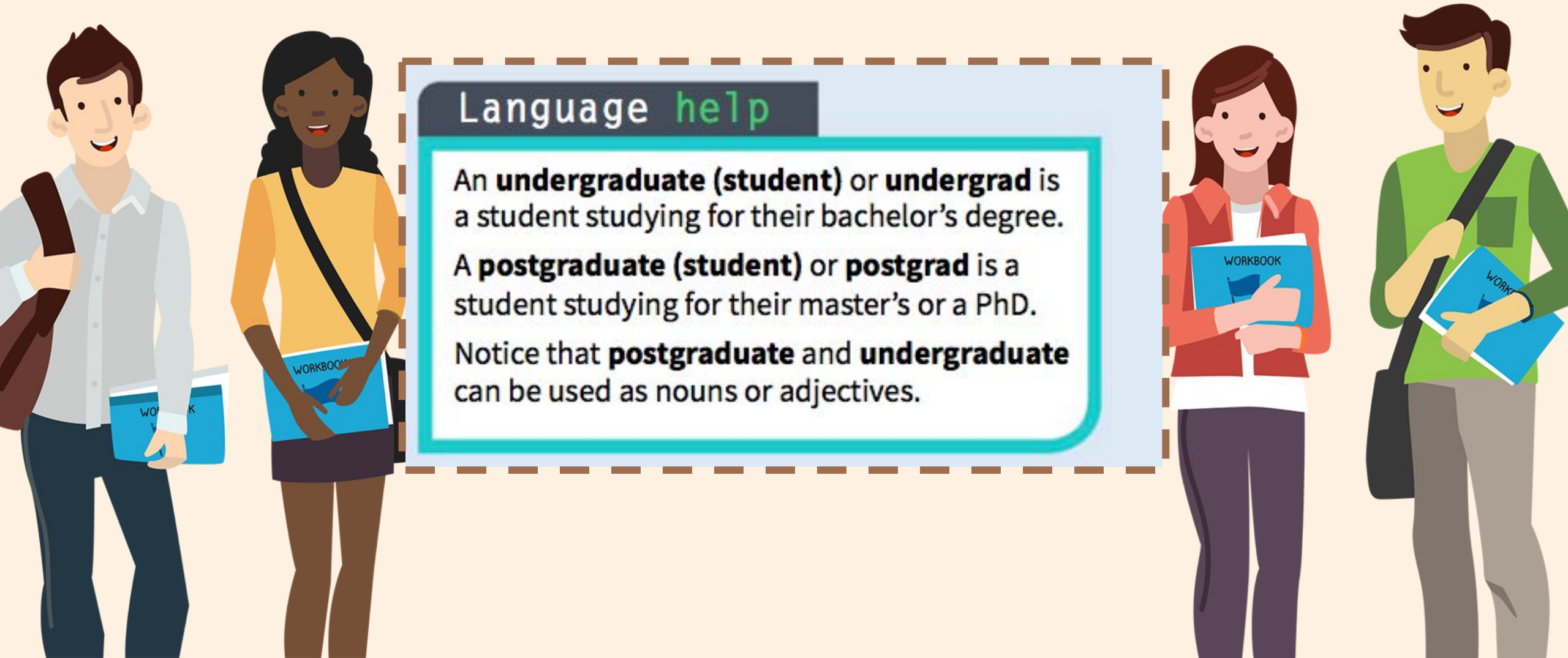


**A tutorial**

If you visit a **university campus**, you'll see a **lecture theatre** (or a lecture hall). During **lectures**, students listen to a **lecturer** and take notes. Some modules have **seminars** where smaller groups discuss the subject in detail. The **academic staff** [people who teach] might also include **tutors**, who teach students individually or in small groups, in sessions called **tutorials**. Many students live **on campus** in **halls of residence** (or **halls**).



# PEOPLE



## Language help

An **undergraduate (student)** or **undergrad** is a student studying for their bachelor's degree.

A **postgraduate (student)** or **postgrad** is a student studying for their master's or a PhD.

Notice that **postgraduate** and **undergraduate** can be used as nouns or adjectives.

# APPLYING FOR A PROGRAMME



## Admissions<sup>1</sup>

To apply for one of our postgraduate programmes, check the **entry requirements**<sup>2</sup> on the programme page. Then click [here](#) to **submit your application**.



## Funding<sup>3</sup>

**Tuition fees**<sup>4</sup> should be paid at the beginning of the academic year. To apply for a **student loan**<sup>5</sup> or a **scholarship**<sup>6</sup> click [here](#).



## Student Union

Visit our **student union**<sup>7</sup> page to find out more about **student societies** and clubs.

# PRACTICE



## AT UNIVERSITY

In what order do these things happen? The first and last one have been numbered for you.

### HOW TO BECOME A DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC

- ☐ A At the end of the first term, you write a brilliant **term paper** and get outstanding grades.
- 10 ☐ B You become a university **lecturer** and continue publishing **research papers**.
- ☐ C At the end of the first **academic year**, you have the highest **grade-point average** in your year. You get a **scholarship**.
- ☐ D You continue your research and do a **PhD**.
- ☐ E You decide to do a **postgraduate course**.
- ☐ F You get a place at university. You are now an **undergraduate**. A rich uncle agrees to pay your **university fees**.
- ☐ G You get an **MA** or **MSc**.
- ☐ H You **graduate**. You get your first **degree**. You are now a **BA** or **BSc**.
- 1 ☐ I You **apply to a university**.
- ☐ J Your PhD thesis gets published in an **academic journal**.



Students must pay a regulation/registration/ bursary fee of £100 when they start their course. Stella's just completed her Bachelor of Arts certificate/diploma/degree with honours/marks/ points and is thinking about doing a Master's. The survey showed that 80% of adults who did not go on to higher/upper/advanced education wish they had. If I get the job in France, I'll probably do a first/ junior/refresher course in French. We'll be awarded/appointed/assigned our degrees at a graduation ceremony.

## How to apply for financial support within the UK

### How to apply for financial support

- Contact your 1) ..... education authority (LEA) for a(n) 2) ..... form. You can also apply online at [www.financial\\_support.org](http://www.financial_support.org).
- Complete the application and return it to your LEA by post. Make sure you provide all the 3) ..... details. Applications are to be 4) ..... by 31st August.
- The application form also asks whether you want to take out a 5) ..... loan.

### Payment

- Your LEA will say if you are 6) ..... to financial support. If you are not awarded the full amount of your 7) ..... fees, they will inform you how much you have to contribute.
- Contributions can either be paid as a(n) 8) ..... sum, or you can usually arrange to pay in instalments.

# PRACTICE

- A • scholarship • tuition fees • internship  
• loans • debt

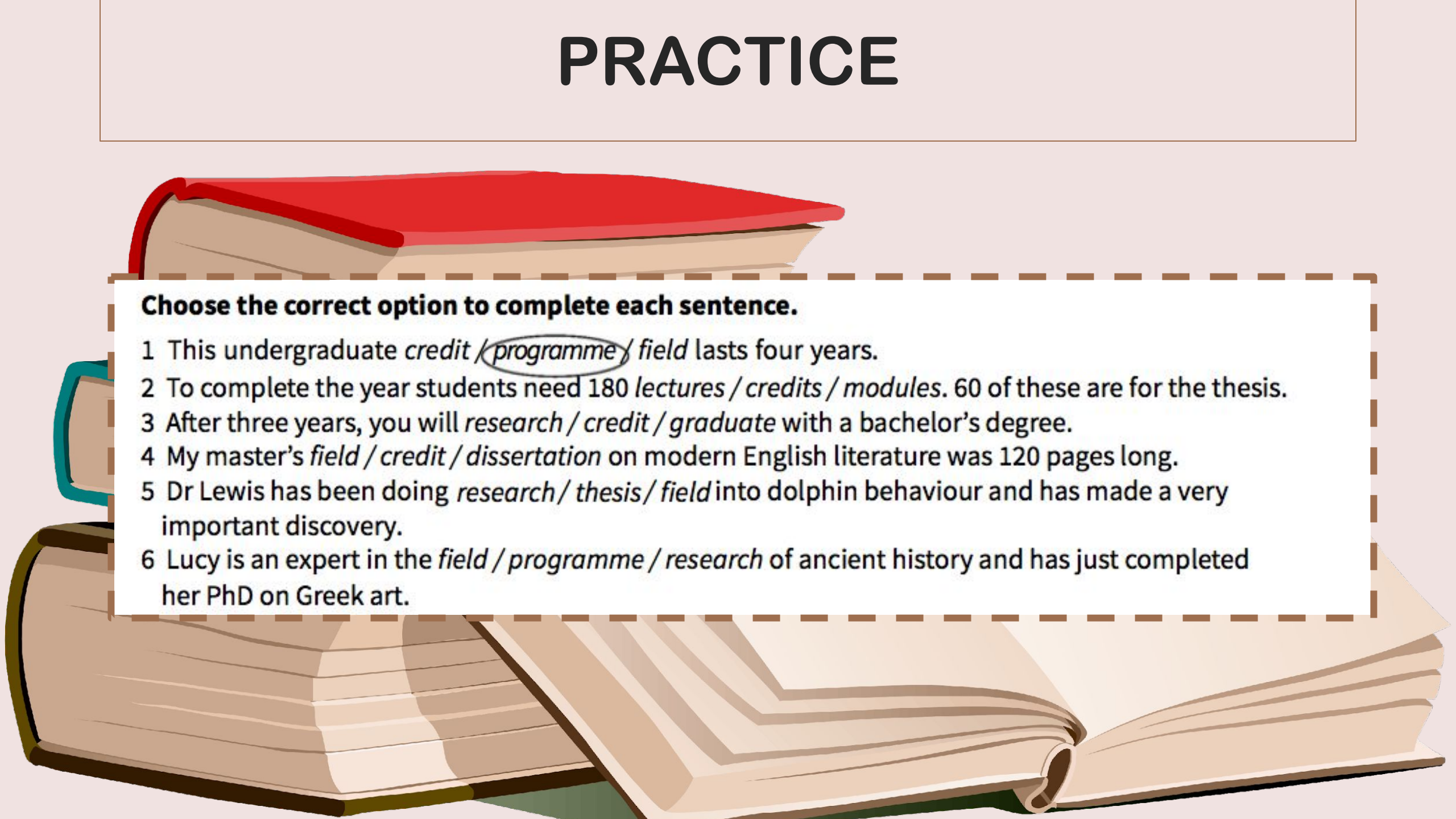
- 1 ..... programmes are the ideal way to find out what it's really like working for a company.
- 2 British universities can charge ..... of up to £9,000 per year.
- 3 Many university students have to take out ..... in order to finance their studies.
- 4 Sam was told that a full sports ..... would cover all his university and living expenses.
- 5 Most university students get part-time jobs in order to avoid getting into .....

- B • terms • breaks • timetable

- 1 Only seniors at my school are allowed outside school grounds during lunch .....
- 2 The school year in the UK is generally divided into three .....
- 3 I've just been given my ..... – I can't believe I've got a double maths period on Friday afternoon!



# PRACTICE

An illustration featuring a stack of books. On top is a closed book with a red cover. Below it is an open book with a teal cover. In front of the open book is a white notepad with a brown dashed border. The notepad contains a practice exercise. The background is a light pink color.

**Choose the correct option to complete each sentence.**

- 1 This undergraduate *credit* / *programme* / *field* lasts four years.
- 2 To complete the year students need 180 *lectures* / *credits* / *modules*. 60 of these are for the thesis.
- 3 After three years, you will *research* / *credit* / *graduate* with a bachelor's degree.
- 4 My master's *field* / *credit* / *dissertation* on modern English literature was 120 pages long.
- 5 Dr Lewis has been doing *research* / *thesis* / *field* into dolphin behaviour and has made a very important discovery.
- 6 Lucy is an expert in the *field* / *programme* / *research* of ancient history and has just completed her PhD on Greek art.

# PRACTICE

**Correct the mistakes in these sentences.**

- 1 There are two types of student <sup>finance</sup> unions: student loans and scholarships.
- 2 You must pay your entry requirements by 17th September.
- 3 A great way of meeting new people on campus is to join some of the student scholarships and clubs.
- 4 The admissions office helps current students with their problems and life on campus.
- 5 Before you submit your application, read the student loan thoroughly.



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# LISTENING

**CD1-20** You're going to hear a radio programme about famous people who got poor exam results. Match speakers 1–4 to statements A–E. There is one extra statement that you do not need.

- A People with certain learning difficulties find certain types of exam tasks difficult.
- B Talented people may not be interested in what is taught at school.
- C Teachers do not give personal attention to unusual students.
- D Pupils with problems could be helped more effectively if classes were not so large.
- E Original thinking does not help you to do well in exams.

1



2



3



4



# WRITING TASK 1

The school is soon over and I haven't decided yet what I want to do after it. Maybe I will apply for a university, but I don't know what I want to do with my life...

Is it bad that I don't know what to do with my life at 18 years old? Have you decided what you want to do after school? Would you like to go to university and why?

