## TEACHER'S NOTES

# Studying and learning by Adrian Doff



Level: Intermediate and above

Time: 20 minutes

Aim: - To talk about subjects of study and courses.

- To talk about going to college or university.
- To talk about learning subjects and practical skills.

#### There are three ways of using this worksheet:

- Give the worksheet to students to work through independently and then in the next lesson go through the
  exercises and deal with any points that arise.
- Use the worksheet for an active classroom lesson. The notes below give ideas for doing this.
- Do not give the worksheet out in class but use it as the basis for your own lesson, getting ideas and phrases from the students and presenting language on the board (use the notes below to help you). Then give out the worksheet at the end and ask students to do the exercises for homework.

## Warm-up

## Warm-up: Establishing the concept

Write on the board:

- I studied French.

- I learned French.
- I studied computer programming.
- I learned computer programming.

Ask what the difference is.

Answer:

- studied = probably at college or university, as a subject (for a degree or diploma)
- learned = maybe at school, or maybe just alone or from friends as a practical skill rather than a subject

Give out the worksheet.

## Worksheet

#### Language focus

- 1. Read the three texts, and establish what they are: parts of letters of application, giving details of study and qualifications. To check comprehension, ask what job each person is qualified to do:
  - 1. business, computer programming
  - 2. architect
  - 3. business or commerce
- 2. studying. Read the examples, and go through the kinds of degree together.

**Alternative:** Ask students to turn the worksheet over. Write the abbreviations for types of degree on the board and ask students if they know what they mean. Then look at the worksheet to check.

Check that students understand what all the subjects mean and explain any they don't know.

To activate this language, ask students these questions:

- Where did you study? Did you go to a college or a university?
- When did you go there? When did you graduate?
- What degree did you get? What subject was it in?

If necessary, teach students how to say I have (got) the equivalent of a [BA] in ....

Large classes: In pairs, students ask each other the questions. Then they report back to you about their partner.

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3. courses. Read the examples, and point out that you can take or do a course – these mean the same.

Check that students understand:

- a post-graduate course (= one you do after you have graduated)
- a full-time course (five days a week you do nothing else)
- a part-time course (maybe one or two days a week you might do a job at the same time)
- a five-day course = it continues for five days, etc.

Ask students if they have been on any courses as part of their job, or earlier in their life. Ask them what the course was, whether it was full- or part-time, and how long it lasted.

**4.** *learning.* Read the examples. Ask students what they had to learn to do in order to do their job (e.g. *learned how to use a computer, learned how to type, learned how to use Excel, learned how to make good coffee*). Encourage them to use *learned how to* in their answers.

Give a few other situations, to check that students understand the difference, e.g.:

I went to Art college. Did I learn art or did I study art?

My wife is French and she taught me French. Did I learn or study it?

#### **Practice**

#### 1. Talk or write:

Students write part of a letter of application (just a short paragraph, as in the examples at the top of the worksheet). Then ask them to read out what they have written.

**Alternative:** Give students a few moments to think about what they have studied, etc., and possibly make a few notes. Then ask them in turn to tell you about it.

**Larger classes:** Do this as pairwork, then ask a few students what their partner told them.

#### 2. Exercises:

Do the exercise together round the class; or let students do it alone or in pairs, then go through it together.

#### Possible answers:

- a) I studied design at Napier College for four years, from 1995 to 1999.
- b) She graduated from Oslo University in 2001.
- c) He did (took) a post-graduate course in business management.
- d) I studied for a BA in economics at London University.
- e) I went to Humboldt College, where I took a part-time course in accountancy. After leaving Humboldt College, I took a part-time course in accountancy.

#### Other language areas you could explore:

#### 1. other expressions for stages of life

- was born in, grew up in, moved to, went to live in, went to school
- started work, worked for, worked as

#### 2. knowledge

- know (a lot) about, have (considerable) knowledge of, be an expert in
- know how to, be good at

#### 3. experience

have experience of, be familiar with

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# onestopenglish

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**Solutions for English Teaching** 

A After leaving school, I studied for an MBA at City College, Brighton. Then I took a six-month course in computer programming at Cadbury College, Bristol.

B I graduated from the University of Budapest with a BSc in architecture, and then worked as a trainee with Leher & Partners. During this period I learned how to use Vectorworks and AutoCAD.

C I studied for four years at the Vaasa School of Economics, Finland. The subjects I studied included business administration, commerce and business English.

#### studying

You study a subject: I studied engineering.

You study at a university or college: I studied at Blakewell College, London.

You study for a degree: I studied for an MA in Marketing.

#### Kinds of degree

MA = Master of Arts BSc = Bachelor of Science Dipl Eng = Diploma in Engineering

BA = Bachelor of Arts MBA = Master of Business Administration

BA and BSc are **first** degrees (= after your first course of study)

MA and MBA are **second** or **postgraduate** degrees (= you already have one degree)

#### Subjects

business administration engineering technology architecture design computing finance marketing law art accounting (accountancy) management tourism economics commerce

#### Stages of studying

I	started went to	college	in 2002.	ı	was at col was a studied de	dent	from 2002 to 2006.		I	left college graduated	in 2006.
I	graduated from		Keele University Brighton College		with	a de	a BSc.				

I did a six-week course in typing.

#### courses

take

do		o a course i	п	She <b>took</b> a full-time course <b>in</b> media studies.						
	а	training computer post-graduate	course	а	full-time part-time	course	а	five-day three-week two-year	course	

#### learning

Compare these sentences:

I learned Chinese in Hong Kong. (= at a language school, or by myself)

I **studied** Chinese in Hong Kong. (= at university)

For practical skills, you can say learn to or learn how to:

I learned to type from a CD-ROM called 'The Typing Tutor'.

You must learn how to use Excel if you want to work in an office.

# Talk or write 🗣 🥒



Write part of a letter of application. Say where, when and what you studied, what courses you went on, or what skills you learned.

Use the examples at the top of this worksheet to help you.

#### **Exercise**

Expand these notes into full sentences.

- I studied design Napier College four years 1995 1999
- She graduated University Oslo 2001 b)
- He post-graduate course business management
- I studied BA economics London University
- When I student Berlin learned write business letters German
- f) Humboldt College part-time course accountancy