

Before You Read

Connecting to the Topic

Discuss the following questions with a partner.

- 1 How old were you when you first started school?
- 2 Do all children in your home country go to school?
- 3 How long do most of these children stay in school?
- 4 Does the government control the schools?
- 5 Are schools free, or do parents have to pay for their children's education?

Previewing and Predicting

Reading a title and looking at illustrations and graphic material can help you predict what topics will be in a text.

A Read the title of Reading 1, and look at the photo on page 49 and the graph (Figure 2.1) on page 50. Then put a check (✓) next to the topics you think will be included in the reading.

- A Differences in education around the world
- B The writer's education
- C The value of education
- D How to teach mathematics
- E The connection between education and success

B Compare your answers with a partner's.

While You Read

As you read, stop at the end of each sentence that contains words in **bold**. Then follow the instructions in the box in the margin.

Education Around the World

- 1 When you think of school, you may think of a classroom like the one in the picture below, but not all classrooms are like this. One school may have dirt floors and no chalkboard; another may be in a modern building with computers. Education comes in many different forms and has a long history. In early times, schools were available only to the elite who could afford to pay for their education, but this changed at the **onset** of industrialization. When industrialization began, new industries needed more educated workers. In order to meet this need, the number of schools expanded, and education became accessible to more children. Today, most nations want all of their children to go to school. This is because educated citizens can take care of themselves, and they contribute to their nation's development.
- 2 Most countries divide education into three levels: primary, secondary, and higher, or university, education. Primary school begins when children are about five years old and lasts for six to nine years. It is usually free, and it is also generally compulsory. Primary instruction often includes reading, writing, mathematics, and history. In some parts of the world, children go to school even before they are five. For example, in Japan and the Czech Republic, many children under five go to preschool. These schools are growing in popularity, especially in Europe, North America, and Japan. This is because working parents cannot stay at home to care for their children. Parents also believe that preschools give their children an advantage when they begin primary school.
- 3 Secondary school lasts for three to six years. It begins when children are about 12 years old. Some countries, such as Germany and Hungary, place secondary schoolchildren in schools based on their scores on a national test. Children with high test scores go to secondary schools that emphasize academic subjects, such as math, science, and literature. Children with lower test scores go to schools that teach more practical and technical skills, such as computer technology, car repair, or hotel management. Recently, some nations have stopped separating their students in this way and now educate all children together.
- 4 **Not** all students have the opportunity to get a university education. There are several reasons for this. In some countries, the entrance test for universities is very difficult, and only a small number of students pass. In



WHILE YOU READ 1

Highlight the words in the next sentence that help you figure out the meaning of *onset*.

WHILE YOU READ 2

As you read, determine which sentences give the main idea of paragraph 4:
 a) the first and last or
 b) the first and second?

China, this test is called the *gaokao*, or “big test.” Every high school student takes it at the same time and has only one chance to pass each year. In 2007, 10 million Chinese students took the exam, and around 40 percent failed. Elsewhere, there are not enough places in colleges and universities. For example, in 2007, only 18 percent of the 18-year-olds in Hong Kong were able to find a place in a local university. Finally, the cost may be very high, and some people cannot afford it. This is true in the United States, where the average cost of a four-year university degree is around \$21,000 per year.

5 Governments play an important part in education. Most children around the world attend government schools. In general, government schools are free, although there may be **fees**, especially at the secondary level. Most of the funding for these schools comes from government taxes. In other words, citizens and businesses pay for education. A government also influences the curriculum. This influence varies, or changes, from one country to another. The government of Vietnam, for example, controls the curriculum and decides what should and what should not be taught.

6 Education provides benefits for both individuals and nations. Students who stay in school have a better chance of finding good jobs. For this reason, parents all over the world work hard to make sure their children get a good education. Many parents hope their children will study in a university. In the United States, for example, people with a university degree earn an average of 74 percent more than people without a university degree. (See Figure 2.1). They earn an average of a million dollars more in their lifetime. For nations, the impact of education on development is also **clear**. Countries with the highest rates of secondary school graduation usually also have the highest productivity. For individuals and their countries, education is essential for success.

WHILE YOU READ 3

Which word in the sentence helps you figure out the meaning of *fees*?

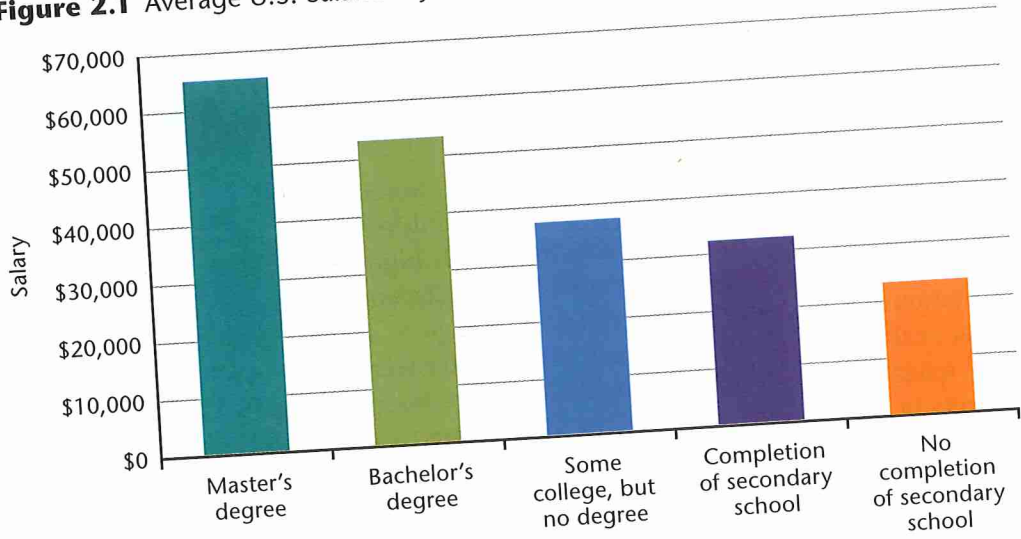
a) Although
b) Especially

WHILE YOU READ 4

Which definition of *clear* matches the meaning in the sentence?

a) To remove something that is causing a problem
b) Easy to understand

Figure 2.1 Average U.S. Salaries by Level of Education in 2010



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2010

Main Idea Check

Here are the main ideas of each paragraph in Reading 1. Match each paragraph to its main idea. Write the number of the paragraph on the blank line.

- _____ A The goals of primary education are similar in most countries.
- _____ B In many countries, students may go to different secondary schools, depending on their abilities.
- _____ C There are several reasons why some students do not have an opportunity to attend a university.
- _____ D There have been many important changes in the history of education.
- _____ E Education gives both individuals and nations an advantage.
- _____ F Governments have a significant impact on schools.

A Closer Look

Look back at Reading 1 to answer the following questions.

- 1 Why did the number of schools increase as countries became more industrialized?
 - a Parents understood that school gave their children an advantage.
 - b Citizens were better educated.
 - c Work became more complicated, so more educated workers were needed.
 - d Governments had more taxes to fund schools.
- 2 According to the paragraph 2, why do parents send their children to preschool?
 - a They believe it will give their children an advantage.
 - b Preschool education is compulsory.
 - c They do not agree with the curriculum in government schools.
 - d Students who have gone to preschool do better on tests.
- 3 According to paragraph 4, in some countries, not everyone has an opportunity to get a university education. Which of the responses below is *not* given as a reason for this?
 - a A university education can be too expensive for some people.
 - b There are not enough places in the universities for everyone.
 - c The government cannot pay for everyone's university education.
 - d The entrance examinations are very difficult, and not everyone can pass them.
- 4 Most children go to schools run by the government. **True or False?**
- 5 Which statement is correct according to the reading?
 - a Some primary schools focus on academic subjects, and some focus on technical subjects.
 - b Test scores can determine the type of school a child attends.
 - c Secondary students with low scores choose either an academic or a technical curriculum.
 - d Secondary school lasts for six to nine years and is usually free.

- 6 According to Figure 2.1, in the United States, how much do people with a graduate's degree earn?
- a An average of three times as much as secondary school graduates
 - b A million dollars in their lifetime
 - c About \$30,000 more than people with a secondary school education
 - d Fifty percent more than people with a Bachelor's degree

Skill Review

In Skills and Strategies 3, you learned that you sometimes need to use a dictionary to find the meanings of unfamiliar words. Learning to use the dictionary is a very important reading skill.

A The following sentences are from Reading 1. Each of the words in **bold** has more than one meaning. First, look for clues to help you figure out the part of speech of the word in **bold**. Then use a dictionary to find the definition that matches the part of speech you identified. Write the part of speech next to *a*, and write the definition on the blank line.

- 1 Most countries divide education into three **levels**: primary, secondary, and higher, or university, education.

a (): _____

b (): _____

- 2 In some countries, the entrance test for universities is very difficult, and only a small number of students **pass**.

a (): _____

b (): _____

- 3 Every high school student takes the test at the same time, and has only one **chance** to pass.

a (): _____

b (): _____

- 4 Elsewhere, there are not enough **places** in colleges and universities, so it is not possible for all high school students to go on to college.

a (): _____

b (): _____

B Using your dictionary, find another meaning of the word in **bold**. What part of speech is it? Write the part of speech next to *b*, and write the second definition on the blank line.

Definitions

Find the words in Reading 1 that complete the following definitions. When a verb completes the definition, use the base form, although the verb in the reading may not be in the base form.

- 1 To _____ is to become larger in size or number. (v) Par. 1
- 2 _____ means the growth or the process of becoming more modern and advanced. (n) Par. 1
- 3 If something is _____, it is required. (adj) Par. 2
- 4 The numbers of correct answers on a test are called _____. (n pl) Par. 3
- 5 To _____ means to show that something is important. (v) Par. 3
- 6 A/An _____ is the chance to do something you want to do. (n) Par. 4
- 7 If something is _____, it is in another place or in other places. (adv) Par. 4
- 8 The _____ means all the courses taught in a school. (n) Par. 5
- 9 To _____ means to change in some way or to cause similar things to be different. (v) Par. 5
- 10 The rate at which a country makes things is called _____. (n) Par. 6

Words in Context

Complete the sentences with words or phrases from Reading 1 in the box below.

academic	contributes to	funding	industrialization
advantage	fees	individuals	meet the need

- 1 China has experienced a rapid rate of _____. Hundreds of factories have been built in the past 10 years.
- 2 The government must help businesses, but it is also important to protect the rights of _____.
- 3 Education has had to change in order to _____ for more skilled workers.
- 4 A high percentage of people with a university degree _____ a country's success.
- 5 The _____ was not enough, so the university had to ask for more money from the government.
- 6 Most parents believe that learning a second language is a/an _____ in today's global world.
- 7 The university offered several scholarships for students with a record of _____ excellence.
- 8 Many colleges charge extra _____ for services, such as using technology and playing sports.

Critical Thinking

Reading 1 discusses the benefits of education, both for an individual and for a country.

A Discuss these questions with a partner.

- 1 What is your level of education now? Have you finished high school?
- 2 What are your educational goals? What subjects are you studying or do you plan to study?
- 3 If you are in college, or plan to go to college, do you want to graduate with a bachelor's degree? A master's degree?
- 4 How will the subjects you choose and the degree you earn help you in the future?
- 5 What is your country doing to encourage students to go to university?

B Share your answers with your class.

Research

Research higher education in a country you know well. Find answers to the following questions.

- Is there a good choice of colleges and universities? Can students choose practical subjects as well as academic ones?
- How do students gain admission to universities?
- Are there enough university places for students?
- What is the average annual cost of university tuition?

Writing

Write two paragraphs. The first paragraph will describe higher education in the country you researched. Include information you learned from your research. The second paragraph will discuss your educational goals and explain how succeeding in these goals will benefit you and your country.

PERSONALIZING

Thinking about how new information applies to your own life can help you understand a text better.