



## INTERVIEW WITH A TEACHER

You are going to listen to an interview with a British school teacher. Complete the exercises below. Try not to read the text until you have completed the exercises. Remember, you can listen as many times as you need to, so don't worry if it seems difficult to understand when you listen for the first time.

### I. BEFORE YOU LISTEN.

Match the words in A with the definitions in B. Use a dictionary to check your answers.

A

a degree

early thirties

twin boys

compulsory

attend

sixth form

rewarding

keen

marking

B

male children born at the same time

to be present at an event or institution

obligatory

satisfying; making you feel happy

eager; wanting to do something

a university diploma

final 2 years for secondary school students

age between approximately 30 and 34

checking and correcting the work of students



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### 2. LISTEN TO THE INTERVIEW.

Decide if the statements below are true (T) or false (F)

	T	F
Katie's parents are also teachers.	—	—
Katie is married to another teacher.	—	—
Katie has always worked in the same school.	—	—
Katie works at a school with 200 students.	—	—
Katie is now the head of her department.	—	—
Katie enjoys marking and lesson preparation.	—	—



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### 3. LISTEN AGAIN.

Use the words below to complete the information about Katie's career.

degree . ten . head . history . thirties . twenty-two . post . college .  
career

Katie did a ..... in history. She went to teacher training

..... and started her first job at the age of ..... She

spent ..... years at her first school and became ..... of the

..... department. She took a ..... break in her early

..... She later got a teaching ..... in a school where she

still works today.



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### 4. LISTEN AGAIN.

Complete this data file for the school where Katie works today.

- a. School is compulsory for students between the ages of ..... and ..... .
- b. The sixth form is for students between the ages of ..... and ..... .
- c. In total there are ..... students in the school.
- d. There are approximately ..... teachers.
- e. English, ..... and physical education are compulsory for everyone.
- f. Students can also choose from the following subjects:
  - Science : ..... , physics and chemistry.
  - Languages : French and ..... .
  - Social Sciences : geography, ..... , ..... , and history.



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### 5. LISTEN AND READ.

Listen again to the interview and read the text to check your answers the questions above.

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A: Katie Howard is a teacher in a British Secondary school. Katie, tell us about your career. How long have you been a teacher?

B: Well, I've been a teacher for nearly twenty years now. I did a degree in history at university and when my degree course finished I had to decide what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. Both my parents are teachers so I suppose that influenced my decision to become a teacher myself. I went to teacher training college and at the age of twenty-two I started my first job in a school in Manchester.

A: How long did you spend at your first school?

B: I was there for ten years and I became head of the history department. But in my early thirties I took a career break for three years. I had got married the year before, to another teacher, and we had twin boys.

A: What did you do next?

B: When the children were old enough to go to nursery school, I got a teaching post at another school. I was happy to be in the classroom again. I didn't want the responsibility of being the head of department. I realised that what I enjoyed most was contact time with the pupils. I'm still at the same school now, doing a job I love.



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A: Can you tell us a little about the school where you work?

B: Yes of course. It's a secondary school for children aged eleven to sixteen. In Britain it's compulsory to attend primary school between the ages of five and eleven and secondary school between the ages of eleven and sixteen. There is also a sixth form for pupils who want to take further exams known as A-levels. Our sixth form students are aged between sixteen and eighteen. Many of these students go to university after their A-levels. In total there are 1,200 students at my school. There are approximately fifty teachers including a head teacher and a deputy head.

A: Apart from history, what other subjects are taught at your school?

B: That's a good question. Our students have the opportunity to study a variety of subjects. English, maths and physical education are compulsory for everyone. However, pupils can also choose to study the main sciences: biology, physics and chemistry, modern languages such as French and Spanish, art and of course social sciences. This is my department and includes geography, economics and sociology as well as history.

A: What do you like most about your job?

B: As I said earlier, it's being with the children. It's very rewarding helping them to learn – to acquire the skills and knowledge that will help them later in life.

A: And what do you like least?

B: Well, I'm not too keen on the marking and preparation which takes up all of my weekend. And I don't like it when I have to discipline a pupil when he or she behaves badly.



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A: Finally Katie, what qualities do you need to be a good teacher?

B: Well I'd say you need to be organized and of course you must know your subject very well. But above all, you need to be passionate about what you do and to have the desire to help young people learn and develop into young adults.

A: Katie, thank you very much for your time.