

REFERENCE E-BOOK

Constructions in present-day English

Thematic section

EDUCATION-CONSTRUCTIONS

Immediate constructions (in bold-type) are word combinations with the dependent units on the left and on the right.

Extended constructions (underlined in the examples) include the immediate constructions into an utterance or text.

EDUCATION-CONSTRUCTIONS

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****academic performance in online schools***

A major report, based on research in 17 US states with online charter schools, has found "significantly weaker academic performance" in maths and reading in these virtual schools compared with the conventional school system.

But low achievement in these schools, identified by this research, has raised big doubts about this approach.

The researchers compared the performance of pupils in online schools with their equivalents in the mainstream schools, in terms of gender, ethnicity, relative wealth or poverty and the prior attainment levels.

The report, from researchers at the University of Washington, Stanford University and the Mathematica policy research group, found online pupils falling far behind their counterparts in the classroom. In maths, it was the equivalent of pupils having missed an entire year in school.

Researchers found that only 2% of online schools outperformed their bricks-and-mortar equivalents in reading. In maths, no online schools were better, and 88% were "significantly weaker".

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-34671952>

****expand-constructions***

Coursera, with 17 million registered students and free online courses from 140 universities, wants to be part of India's drive to expand access to higher education.

What makes this an even bigger opportunity for online providers is that the Indian government has a target to increase university enrolment by 30% by 2030.

It would mean establishing "literally a couple of thousand universities" as well as expanding the existing institutions, he says.

Instead Dr Levin, a former president of Yale University, believes it will be online courses that will fill the gap and widen access to university for India's ambitious youngsters.

The Indian higher education sector could not realistically expand that quickly in terms of traditional universities, he says.

It means a decade of even more intense competition from international universities for a share of this expanding market.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-35296872>

****reluctant learners - constructions***

Denmark reinvents lessons for reluctant learners.

How do you get young adults back into education if they dropped out and had a negative experience of learning?

How do you get out-of-work youngsters to decide that it's worth their while to get qualifications?

Reaching out to the educationally excluded isn't some kind of philanthropic exercise.

Denmark is no exception. About 12% of the country's 15 to 29-year-olds are counted as not in education, employment or training or "Neet".

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-34140447>

**respect-constructions*

Teachers in China have the highest levels of public respect, according to an international study comparing their status in 21 countries.

A large majority of adults in China believed that students would respect their teachers – in contrast to most European countries where only a minority believed that students would show respect.

Head teachers in the UK are particularly highly respected – more so than in any other of the countries surveyed.

Sunny Varkey, founder of the Varkey GEMS Foundation, said: "It is my ambition that teachers are treated with as much respect as doctors."

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-24381946>

**status of teachers / of teaching –constructions*

The prize was created to raise the status of teaching.

Andreas Schleicher, the OECD's education director, said that the status of teachers was reflected in international test results, with a high value put on teaching in high-performing Asian countries.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-31861022>

The study confirmed the high status of teachers in China, where there is a strong cultural emphasis on the importance of education.

This examined public attitudes to professional status, trust, pay and the desirability of teaching as a career.

Finland, often seen as a model for recruiting high-quality, high-status teachers, was in the bottom half of the rankings, in 13th place.

Sadly, in many countries around the world teachers no longer retain the elevated status that we used to take for granted."

"To recruit the brightest and best, teaching needs to be a high status occupation, and we need to understand better what contributes to the social standing of teachers," said Lord Adonis.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-24381946>

Sunny Varkey was the founder and funder of this global project to bring status and recognition – as well as some glitz and glamour - to teaching.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-32397213>

**traditional universities vs online universities / courses / students*

India is top target for online universities.

India, with its huge education-hungry population, is the prime target of one of the world's biggest **online university** providers.

This Californian company is one of the trailblazers of the so-called Moocs (massive open **online courses**) which run courses for students studying at home, but usually without accredited degrees.

Dr Levin says this is "hugely ambitious" and then qualifies it further as "frankly almost impossible" if such an expansion were to depend on building new **bricks and mortar universities**.

Instead Dr Levin, a former president of Yale University, believes it will be **online courses** that will fill the gap and widen access to university for India's ambitious youngsters.

Coursera already has 1.3 million students in India, the biggest concentration of **online students** outside the US and China.

Dr Levin says that the 10 most popular courses for these **online students** are all related to information technology or data science.

Traditional campus-based universities in the US have been attracting rapidly rising numbers of Indian students, up by almost 30% last year and second only to China.

But the UK's **distance learning university**, the Open University, has ambitions to increase its reach in India.

Mr Hill also sees **distance learning** as a practical way for India to reach its target for another 14 million university places in less than 15 years.

The Indian higher education sector could not realistically expand that quickly in terms of **traditional universities**, he says.

"The only way it is going to reach its target is **online**. India has to embrace **distance learning**," says Mr Hill.

At present, India has 3.5 million students on **distance learning degrees** and the OU chief executive argues that this is going to have to increase significantly.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-35296872>