



# ENGLISH FOR LIVING LESSON 3: WORKSHEETS

**Primary Education** 

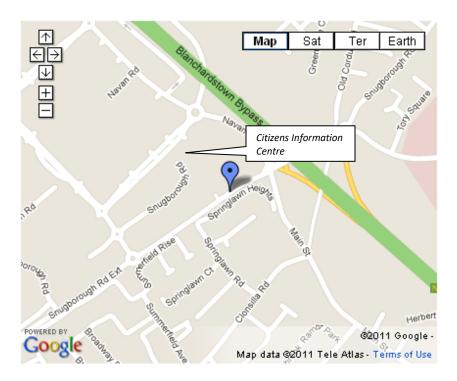
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# **Lesson 3: Primary Education**

In this lesson you will learn about primary education in Ireland.



# **Dialogue A: Finding a Primary School**

Thomas and Latifa have three children: a son aged 3 called Daniel, a daughter aged 5 called Anita and a son aged 9 called Victor. Thomas goes to the Citizens' Information Centre on the Snugborough Road to find out about schools for his children.

Advisor	Hello, can I help you?
Thomas	Yes, I want to find out about schools for my children.
Advisor	Ah, you want to enrol your children in a school. How old are your children?
Thomas	I have three children, I have two sons they are 3 and 9 and I have a daughter who is
	5.
Advisor	Ok. Well first of all, your three year old son can't start primary school. He is too
	young.
Thomas	That's a pity, my son would really like to go to school.
Advisor	He must be 4 by September when he is starting. But he could go to pre-school –
	these are small private school and the State will pay for your child for one year
	before he starts school.

Thomas	And my daughter Anita, she's five, can she start school?
Advisor	Yes your five year old can certainly start school, has she been to school already?
Thomas	She was in school for a few months. In our country children start school at 5.
Advisor	In Ireland they start at 4 or 5. She could start in the first year of primary school, it's
	called 'junior infants'. If she already knows how to read words and say her
	numbers, she could go into the second year, called senior infants.
Thomas	How many years are there in primary school?
Advisor	There are eight years altogether: junior infants, senior infants, first, second, third,
	fourth, fifth, and sixth class. After that they go to secondary school.
Thomas	And my son Victor who is nine, what class will he be in?
Advisor	He could probably start in third class but the principal of your school will decide
	that with you.

### A.1 Practice

Listen to the dialogue again, this time repeat each sentence.

# **A.2 Comprehension**

Did you understand the information Thomas was given? Listen to these sentences and decide if they are true of false.

1.	The little boy who is 3 is too young to go to primary school.	True	False
2.	A child must be 4 by January of that year to start school.	True	False
3.	If your child is in a pre-school you must pay yourself	True	False
4.	The first two years in primary school are called 1st class and 2nd class	True	False
5.	Children in Ireland spend 8 years in primary school	True	False

# **A.3 Language Focus**

# School language

Here are some important words for talking about school

**Enrol** – 'I want to enrol my children in a school'. This means you want to register your children in a school.

**Principal** – this is the person in charge of the school.

**Primary school** – this is for children aged 4 – 12. These schools are often called 'national schools'. After that they go to secondary school.

**Pre-school** – these are schools for children aged 2 ½ - 5. They are usually private. The state will fund one year at pre-school but not two.

**Junior infants** and **senior infants** – these are the first two years of primary school for children aged 4-6.

**First class, second class, third class, fourth class, fifth class, sixth class** are used for primary school. In secondary school they use 'year' instead of 'class' for example **first year, second year third year** etc.

#### Can and could

Listen to how 'can' is used when something is certain and 'could' is used to talk about something that is possible in the future.

Thomas asks 'my daughter Anita, she's five, can she start school?'

The advisor answers 'your five year old <u>can</u> certainly start school'. However the advisor is not certain what class she will be in and says 'She <u>could</u> start in the first year of primary school, which is junior infants' or 'If she already knows how to read words and numbers, she <u>could</u> go into the second year, which is senior infants'.

Listen to what the advisor says about the three year old: 'your three year old son <u>can't</u> start primary school, he is too young' but there is another possibility for him 'he <u>could</u> go to preschool'.

Thomas wants to know what class his nine-year-old son will be in and the advisor is not certain he says 'He <u>could</u> probably start in third class, but the principal of the school will decide that with you.'

## **A.4 Language Development**

### Talking about age

You can use 'aged' and the number to say how old a person is. For example, 'I have a son aged 11', you can also say 'I have a son who is 11 years old' or 'I have an 11 year old son' or just 'I have an 11 year old'.

Thomas and Latifa have three children:

A son aged 3 called Daniel. How old is Daniel? He's three years old, he's a three year old.

Now you do the same for Anita and Victor	
A daughter aged 5 called Anita. How old is Anita?	
A son aged 9 called Victor. How old is Victor?	
Can and could	
Here are some details about children who want to go to school? What class could they start in?	school. Can they enrol in primary
Example	
Mark is six years old: Can he enrol in primary school? infants	Yes, he can, he could start in senior
Now you try these:	
Laura is five years old. Can she enrol in primary school?	
Victor is nine years old. Can he enrol in primary school?	
Daniel is three years old. Can he enrol in primary school?	
Luca is seven years old. Can he enrol in primary school?	
Mark is fifteen years old. Can he enrol in primary school?	?

# **Dialogue B: Types of Schools**

# Thomas wants to find the right school for his children. Now he asks the advisor for more information about the school.

Advisor	Is there anything else you need to know?
Thomas	Yes, the most important question, how do I find a school for my children?
Advisor	It can be difficult to find a school so you should contact all of the schools in the
	area where you are living. Most places in schools are filled 2 or 3 years before
	children start, but there may be some places left.
Thomas	What documents do I need?
Advisor	The school will give you an application form to fill in. You will need your children's birth certificates and baptismal certificates if you are sending them to a religious school.
Thomas	What are the different types of school?
Advisor	There are a lot of religious schools in Ireland, most of these are Catholic, many of
	these schools accept children of different religions. A lot of these schools are for
	boys only or for girls only.
Thomas	We are not Catholic.
Advisor	There are a few schools run by other religions in the Dublin area: There is a Church of Ireland school under protestant management in Castleknock, and there are Jewish and Muslim schools in Dublin.
Thomas	I would prefer a school that is not religious and I would like to send my son and daughter to the same school.
Advisor	You want a mixed school. In the Blanchardstown area there are a number of
	'Educate Together' schools which are for children of any religion and mixed boys
	and girls. There are a small number of schools where the teaching is through
	Irish, these are called Gaelscoileanna.
Thomas	I think I would like an 'Educate Together' school. How much does it cost to send a
	child to school?
Advisor	Most primary schools are free, but you will need to pay for schoolbooks and
	uniforms.
Thomas	How long is the school day?
Advisor	For the first two years in junior and senior infants, school starts at about 9 o'clock
	and finishes at half past one. From first to sixth class, children stay in school for
	one more hour a day, until about half past two.
Thomas	That is quite a short day, my children will be happy to hear that. Thanks for the
	information.
Advisor	You're welcome. I hope you find a school!

### **B.1** Practice

Listen to the dialogue again, this time repeat each sentence.

# **B.2 Comprehension**

# Did you understand the information Thomas was given? Say whether these statements are true or false.

1. Usually it is easy to find a school in the Blanchardstown area	True	False
2. You can apply to lots of different schools	True	False
3. School places are filled 2 or 3 years in advance	True	False
4. You need a birth cert and baptismal cert for all schools	True	False
5. You have to be a catholic to go to a catholic school	True	False
6. There are Church of Ireland, Jewish and Muslim schools in the Dublin area	True	False
7. An 'Educate together' school takes children of all or no religion	True	False
8. In Ireland you have to pay fees for primary school	True	False
9. Children usually start school at 8 o'clock	True	False
10. Children have one extra hour of school from first class onwards	True	False

# **B.3 Language Focus**

# Listen to the questions Thomas asked and repeat each one:

- What are the different types of school?
- What documents do I need?
- How do I find a school for my children?
- How much does it cost?
- How long is the school day?

# Notice how quantities and amounts are expressed:

- All of the schools
- Most places are filled 2 or 3 years before the children start
- There may be some places left

- There are <u>a lot of</u> religious schools
- Most of these schools are Catholic
- Many of these accept children of other religions
- There are <u>a few</u> schools run by other religions
- There are <u>a number of</u> Educate Together schools
- There are a small number of Gaelscoileanna

# **B.4 Language Development:**

# **Asking questions**

Now it's your turn to ask the questions. Here are some points you want to find out about. First you ask the question then repeat the correct answer.

Cost					
Length of the schoo	ol day				
Mixed boys and girl	s				
Religious					
Expressions of quai	ntity				
Listen to this inforn expression of quan			-	he percentage	es with an
100% of schools in I	reland teach	English			
92% of schools are	Catholic				
		tooching			
70% of schools use	computers in	teaching			
	•	<u> </u>			
30% of schools teac	h foreign lan	guages			
70% of schools use 30% of schools teac 7% of children go to 5% of primary school	h foreign lan	guages			

# **Summarising information**

Thomas comes out of the meeting with the advisor with a lot of information about schools and makes some notes about what he needs to do next. Fill in the gaps in the following text:

I must	all of the schools / in the	where I am living. / I need a
copy of my children's		to show their age. / I will need to
get an	$\_$ form from the schools. / I must also	consider what of
school I want for my c	hildren.	

# Dialogue C: Enrolling a child in school

# Thomas goes to the local school and talks first to the secretary and then to the principal

Secretary	Good morning, can I help you?
Thomas	Good morning, I am looking for a school for my children.
Secretary	How old are they?
Thomas	I have a daughter aged five and a son aged nine.
Secretary	Just a moment and I'll get the principal for you.
Thomas	Thank you.
Principal	Good morning, I am Mr Lynch the Principal.
Thomas	Pleased to meet you, I am Thomas Agode, I am looking for a school for my two
	children.
Principal	How old are your children, and what are their names?
Thomas	Anita is five years old and Victor is nine years old.
Principal	Has your daughter been to school already?
Thomas	Just for a few months. She can count and knows the alphabet but she can't read.
Principal	I think she should start in junior infants. How many years of school has your son
	had?
Thomas	Let me think four years
Principal	Do your children speak English?
Thomas	Not very much. Their mother speaks some English with them, my daughter
	understands a lot but doesn't speak it, my son can speak a little but he can't read
	or write English.
Principal	I think your son should start in third class but he may need some language
	support. Can you fill out these application forms and I will also need copies of
	their birth certificates.
Thomas	I have copies of the birth certificates here.
Principal	Well, you can fill in the application forms straight away and give me the birth
	certificates as well. I don't think there will be any problem.
Thomas	That's great, thank you very much. When can they start?
Principal	They can start on the first of September. I will send you confirmation of their
	places by letter, in the post, next week along with a copy of the rules of the
	school.
Thomas	What about schoolbooks and uniforms?
Principal	I will send you a list of the schoolbooks they will need for September and details
	of the uniform. There are bookshops and uniform shops in the Blanchardstown
	Shopping Centre.

Thomas	Thank you very much. My children will be very happy to know they are going to
	this school
Principal	You're welcome, I look forward to meeting your children.

#### **C.1** Practice

Listen to the dialogue again, this time repeat each sentence.

# **C.2 Comprehension**

# Answer the following questions based on the dialogue:

1.	Who does Thomas speak to first?
1.	Who is Mr Lynch?
2.	How long has his daughter spent in school?
3.	What class should she start in?
4.	How long has his son been in school?
5.	What class should he start in?
6.	What help will his son get with his English?
7.	What certificates does the principal ask for?
8.	When can the children start school?
9.	What will the principal send in the post?
10.	Thomas needs information about 2 other things
11.	Where can he buy these?

# **C.3 Language Focus**

# School Language

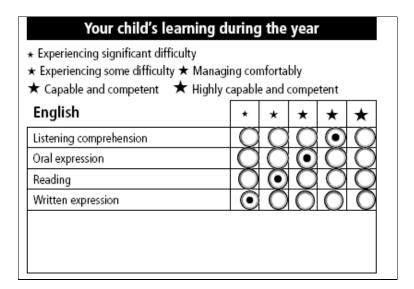
She can <u>count</u> and knows the <u>alphabet</u> - this means she knows her numbers and letters.

My daughter <u>understands</u> a lot but doesn't <u>speak</u> it – many children have a 'silent phase' where they understand a language but are not ready to talk.

My son can speak a little but he can't read or write English – it's important to have some oral skills first – reading and writing is easier for children who already speak the language.

He may need some <u>language support</u> – these are special classes to help children whose first language is not English.

The report card in the text of the lesson shows a child with different skills in English – good in <u>listening comprehension</u>, quite good in <u>oral expression</u>, some difficulty with <u>reading</u> and a lot of difficulty with <u>written expression</u>. It can take time for children to develop all of the skills.



# **C.4 Language Development**

Imagine you are going to meet the principal of a school. Play the role of the parent with children Victor aged 9 and Anita aged 5.

Principal	Good morning, can I help you?
You	
Principal	I am Mr Lynch the Principal, pleased to meet you.
You	
Principal	So, how old are your children?
You	
Principal	Are they boys or girls?
You	
Principal	What are their names?
You	
Principal	Have your children been to school already?
You	
Principal	Do your children speak English?
You	
Principal	Can you fill out these application forms and I will also need copies of their birth
	certificates.

You	
Principal	They can start on the first of September. I will send you confirmation of their
	places by letter, in the post, next week along with a copy of the rules of the
	school. Is there anything else you need to know?
You	
Principal	I will send you a list of the schoolbooks they will need for September and details
	of the uniform. Well thank you very much, and I will see you in September
You	
Principal	You're welcome, I look forward to meeting your children.

# **Dialogue D: Parent –Teacher meeting**

Thomas and Latifa's children started school in September and in February there is a parent teacher meeting. Thomas and Latifa go to the school to discuss their son Victor's progress with the teacher Miss Donnelly

Miss Donnelly	Good afternoon, you must be Victor's parents, Mr and Mrs Agode
Thomas and	Yes we are, good afternoon Miss Donnelly
Latifa	
Miss Donnelly	It's very nice to meet you, I hope you are settling into Blanchardstown.
Thomas	Well it's very different to our country, but we like it here.
Miss Donnelly	Victor seems to be settling in well at school, do you think he's happy here?
Latifa	He seems to like school and he seems to be learning a lot. But I am worried
	he does not have a lot of friends.
Miss Donnelly	It can be difficult starting in a new school at 9 years of age.
Latifa	Yes, I think it was easier for his sister who is only 5 – she settled in very
	quickly and she has lots of friends now.
Miss Donnelly	Well there are a few boys he seems to talk to at the breaks and some of the
	girls get on well with him too. I think it will just take a little time.
Thomas	Is there anything we can do to help?
Miss Donnelly	It might be a good idea if he did some sports after school. He seems to like
	P.E. and that way he could spend more time with other children but have
	fun as well.
Latifa	He says there is football but it's different to football at home in our country.
Miss Donnelly	Yes on Wednesday afternoon there's Gaelic football. It's very like
	international football – it's not difficult at all.
Thomas	Great – we'll talk to him about that.

### **D.1** Practice

Listen to the dialogue again, this time repeat each sentence.

# **D.2** Comprehension

A	L _ C	: <b>-     -</b>	- <b>!</b>		<b>I</b>		I	I I	1
Δηςωρη τι	ne t	กแกน	ıınn	auestions	กกรอก	nn t	ne n	IIAI	nalle
<i></i>			min	uucsiioiis	DUJLU	OII L	<i>1</i> – –	ıuı	ouuc.

1.	Do Thomas and Latifa like Blanchardstown?	
2.	Does the teacher say Victor is settling in well	
	or badly at school?	
3.	What is Latifa worried about?	

4.	Does his sister have friends?
5.	Does the teacher say Victor has no friends?
6.	What does the teacher say Victor should do?
7.	Is gaelic football very like or very different
	to international football?
8.	When is the gaelic football training on?
D.3 La	nguage Focus
Talkin	g about settling in
	you move to a new country, a new house or a new school it takes time to settle in. Listen se sentences in the dialogue:
•	I hope you are settling into Blanchardstown
•	Victor seems to be settling in well at school
•	she settled in very quickly
•	I think it will just take a little time.
Talkin	g about appearances
If som dialog	eone appears to be something you can use 'seems'. Listen to these sentences in the ue:
•	Victor seems to be settling in well at school
•	He seems to like school
•	There are a few boys he <u>seems to</u> talk to
•	He <u>seems to</u> like P.E.
D.4 La	inguage Development
Now p	oractice using 'settling in' by using it in answers to the following questions
1.	Does your daughter like her new school?
2.	Do you like your new house?
3.	Do you and your family like living in Ireland?
4.	Do your children have friends where they live?
Now p	oractice using 'seems to' in answering the following questions
5.	Is your son happy in school?
6.	Does he like his teacher?
7.	Does your daughter have friends in school?
8.	Do your children enjoy P.E?

# **Dialogue E: Discussing schoolwork**

Thomas	And how is his schoolwork?
Miss Donnelly	He is very good at Maths, he seems to really like doing sums.
Thomas	It's his favourite subject.
Miss Donnelly	He is making progress in English, he seems to understand a lot and his
	reading is quite good, but writing is difficult for him.
Latifa	English is a difficult language.
Miss Donnelly	It is indeed. The language support teacher takes him for an hour every week
	and that helps him a lot.
Latifa	He was very good at reading and writing in our own language.
Miss Donnelly	Well encourage him to keep reading and writing in your own language too.
	That will help him to develop reading and writing skills in general.
Thomas	Has he difficulties with other subjects?
Miss Donnelly	He is very interested in science, and he seems to like history and geography
	but he has some difficulties with reading and writing about them because of
	his English.
Latifa	Is there anything we can do?
Miss Donnelly	Encourage him, ask him to read you a story in English, or to show you his
	writing in English. He has made a lot of progress since September.
Latifa	What about the other subjects?
Miss Donnelly	Of course he really enjoys P.E and he is learning a little bit of Irish and
1	he seems to know a lot about computers
Latifa	That's great. Is there anything else?
Miss Donnelly	No, I don't think so. Just one thing – we have a healthy lunch policy in the
	school. Can you make sure he brings healthy food to school, and on Friday
	he can have a treat.
Latifa	What's a treat?
Miss Donnelly	A treat would be crisps or a bar of chocolate – from Monday to Thursday we
	prefer children to eat sandwiches and fruit or yoghurts.
Thomas	That's a good idea. I think he eats mostly good food anyway.
Miss Donnelly	And don't forget he'll need to wear his track suit on Wednesday when he
	starts football.
Thomas	Ok. Thanks you for your time, it was very nice to meet you.
Miss Donnelly	You're welcome. Victor is a very nice child and I am very happy with his
	progress.

Latifa	That's great to hear. We'll encourage him on the reading and writing and		
	we'll talk to him about starting football.		
Miss Donnelly	You can contact me if you have any concerns		
Thomas and	Ok good bye		
Latifa			
Miss Donnelly	Goodbye		

#### E.1 Practice

Listen to the dialogue again, this time repeat each sentence.

# **E.2** Comprehension

What did the teacher say about Victor's progress? Match the subject with the comment the teacher made. Listen to the subject and give the comment and then you will hear the correct answer.

Subject	Comments (mixed up)	[Correct answers]
Maths	Difficult for him	
Sums	He's quite good	
English reading	He is very interested	
English writing	He really likes	
Science	He is learning a little bit	
History and geography	He really enjoys	
P.E.	Seems to like	
Irish	He's very good	
Computers	He knows a lot	

Now listen to how the teacher thinks Victor can be helped and decide if these statements are true or false.

1. There is a language support teacher in the school who can help him	True	False		
2. The language support teacher can take him for one hour per day.	True	False		
3. Encourage him to read and write in English only.	True	False		
4. Reading and writing in his own language will help his reading and writing skills in general				
	True	False		
5. The parents should read him a story in English at home	True	False		
6. He should show his parents his writing in English	True	False		

# **E.3 Language Focus**

# Talking about school subjects

The primary school curriculum is made up of different subjects

Mathematics is usually referred to as maths. Children do different types of sums in maths

Addition: adding numbers together 12 + 12 = 24 [12 'plus' 12 'equals' 24]

<u>Subtraction</u>: taking one number from another 12 -6 = 6 [12 'minus' or 'take way' 6 'equals' 6]

Multiplication: multiplying one number by another 6 X 6 = 36 [6 'multiplied by' or 'times' 6 'equals' 36].

Division: dividing one number by another 36 / 6 = 6 [36 'divided by' 6 'equals' 6]

# Language

English language studies includes Reading, Spelling, Writing and Creative writing Irish or Gaeilge is taught as well as English.

# SESE means (Social Environmental and Scientific Education)

This subject is made up of Science, History and Geography

**IT** stands for (Information Technology) it's where children work with computers

PE stands for (Physical Education) and includes games, gymnastics, dance and other activities

Arts Education has three elements: Visual arts, Drama and Music

**Religious Education** is usually part of the school curriculum but this depends on the type of school.

#### **Breaks and Lunches**

In Ireland children bring their own food to school for small break at around 10.30 and big break or lunch at 12.30. Many schools have a healthy eating policy and give parents lists of food which are healthy and unhealthy. Decide if these foods are healthy or not according to one school.

•	Sandwiches	
•	Crisps,	
•	rolls	

•	Crackers
•	chocolate,
•	Fruit
•	Cake,
•	Vegetables
•	Fizzy drinks (coke, fanta, etc)
•	Pasta
•	Chewing gum
•	Salad
•	Small, plain biscuits
•	chocolate biscuits
•	Yoghurt
•	Popcorn
•	sweets

# E. 4 Language Development

Look at the report card and make a simple sentence about how well the child is doing in each area. You can use 'very well', 'well', 'quite well', 'has some difficulty', 'has a lot of difficulty'. If you don't have the text try to remember what the teacher said about Victor.

### For example

- What is Victor like as a learner?
- What can you say about Victor's social and personal development:
- How is he doing in English?
- How is he doing in Irish?
- How is he doing in Maths?
- How is he doing in SESE?
- How is he doing in P.E?

If you would like more information on education in Ireland, these are useful websites:

www.livinginireland.ie/en/education/

www.education.ie

http://www.ncca.ie/uploadedfiles/primary/infants\_eng.pdf

http://www.ncca.ie/uploadedfiles/Curriculum/inclusion/Parent-teacher.pdf

Name: Victor Agode	Gaeilge	* * <b>* * *</b>	How you can further sup	
Name. Violati Agodo	Listening comprehension	00000	Encourage Victor to read a	
Class: 3rd class	Oral expression	100000	sometimes and ask him to	show you his writing.
	(Pre) Reading	100000	It would be a good idea if	Victor joined some sports
Rarely Sometimes Most of the time Always	(Pre) Writing	100000	as this would help him to r	
Your child as a learner			fun environment.	
@ @ @ @				
Interested in learning C C C			Standardised test re	sults (if applicable)
Listens attentively			not applicable	
Works well independently	Mathematics	* * <b>* * *</b>		
Works well with other children	Understanding and recalling	00000		
Keeps trying even when tasks are difficult	Using procedures	BEREEL		
Homework is of high quality	Reasoning and problem solving	<del>                                      </del>		
Presents work carefully	Explaining and communicating	<del>                                     </del>		
Your child's social and personal development		100000	Comments	
			Victor is a very nice child and a pleasure to teach.	
(a) (b) (c)			He gets on well with other	children and is making
Happy at school C C O O			more friends all the time.	
Behaves well in class COOO	Social, Environmental and		Victor is making goof prog	ress in English although
Mixes well with other children	Scientific Education	*   *   *   <b>*</b>   <b>★</b>	he has more difficulty with writing than speaking.	
Sensitive to others' feelings	History			
Behaves well in the playground	Geography	<del>                                      </del>		
Manages and expresses own feelings well	Science	KAKKKI		
Your child's learning during the year				
* Experiencing significant difficulty	Arts Education	* * <b>* * *</b>		
★ Experiencing some difficulty ★ Managing comfortably	Music	00000		
★ Capable and competent ★ Highly capable and competent	Drama	<u> </u>		
English	Visual Arts	<del>KKKK</del> I	Attendance	Punctuality
Listening comprehension	TOWN TO W		Very good	Excellent
Oral expression			Toly good	Extension
Reading OOOO	Physical Education	· * * * *	Tooker Miss Malley	
Written expression	Physical Education	00000	Teacher: Miss Molloy	
	Social, Personal & Health Education	lddddd	Principal: Mr Lynch	
	Religious/Ethical Education	adoda	Date: 21st June 2012	