

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## My Primary Schooldays

I started primary school in 1970 when I was 5. It was a state school: education was free. It was also a single-sex school: there were no girls in my class. My first teacher was Mrs Mahon. She was strict, but I liked her a lot. She hit us with a cane, but she didn't hit me a lot because I was a good pupil!

At 8 we had our first male teacher, Mr Clarke. He was stricter than Mrs Mahon, but I also liked him. Occasionally he took us hiking to the Dublin Mountains in May or June: I loved that!

We studied English, Irish, Maths and Religion every day. Nobody liked Irish because the teacher hit us more during this class. Once or twice a week we learned about History and Geography. History and Geography were my favourite subjects. We had a break from 12.30 to 1 o'clock, and in the summer we played football everyday.

All our teachers hit us with a cane when we were bold. Some pupils hated school because the teachers hit them almost every day! Now it is illegal for teachers to hit pupils, but at that time it was permitted.

**Now answer the following question:**

1. How old was the writer of the article when he started primary school?
2. Did the writer of the article go to a private school?
3. Was it a mixed (co-ed) school?
4. Did the writer like his first teacher?
5. Was his first teacher a man or a woman?
6. Did the teachers in primary school hit the pupils?
7. Did the pupils in the class like Irish?
8. What were the writer's favourite subjects in primary school?
9. Did they study History and Geography every day?
10. Was it legal for teachers to hit pupils?

**Now complete the following sentences from the text *without looking*:**

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ primary school when I was 5.
2. It \_\_\_\_\_ a state school.
3. It was a single sex school: there were \_\_\_\_\_ girls in my class.
4. My first \_\_\_\_\_ was Mrs Mahon.
5. At 8, we had our first \_\_\_\_\_ teacher, Mr Clarke.
6. We \_\_\_\_\_ English, Irish, Maths and religion every day.
7. History and Geography \_\_\_\_\_ my favourite \_\_\_\_\_.

8. Nobody \_\_\_\_\_ Irish \_\_\_\_\_ the teachers hit us more during this class!
9. All our teachers \_\_\_\_\_ us with a cane when we \_\_\_\_\_ bold.
10. Now it \_\_\_\_\_ illegal for teachers to hit pupils.

**Now complete the following sentences about yourself:**

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ primary school when I \_\_\_\_\_.
2. It \_\_\_\_\_ a state / private school.
3. My school \_\_\_\_\_ single sex / mixed.
4. My first \_\_\_\_\_.
5. My favourite subject(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
6. We studied \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ in primary school.
7. The teacher hit / didn't hit us when we \_\_\_\_\_ bold.
8. The teachers \_\_\_\_\_ male / female / male or female.
9. I liked / didn't like \_\_\_\_\_ school.
10. I finished \_\_\_\_\_ school when \_\_\_\_\_.