

Home-schooling

In Germany, all children have to go to school – whether they want to or not. However, in some countries – for example in America and Great Britain – parents don't have to send their kids to school. They can teach them at home. This is called "home-schooling". Of course home-schooled kids have to take tests, too, but they are free to decide when, where, and how they study. We have asked four teenagers what they think about home-schooling.

Sarah (13): I think home-schooling is a bad idea! Home-schooled kids are always with their family. They never get to meet other people and they can't make friends. Also, they don't learn to work in a team, and that's very important.

Jeff (12): I'm home-schooled and I like it a lot. I was bullied in school; the other students made fun of me all the time and they even stole my things. I was so scared that I didn't say anything in class, and I couldn't concentrate. I just wanted to go home. Now my dad teaches me, and I find it much easier to learn.

Mike (15): I couldn't imagine being home-schooled! I think some things are good – you don't have to get up early in the morning, for example, and you can study things that interest you. But I'm not really sure that all parents are good teachers. My mum could never teach me math – she's too bad at it!

Haley (14): I used to be home-schooled when I was younger. My mum taught me. It was lots of fun. We did many projects and went on trips to museums or to the zoo. I wasn't lonely because my brothers and sisters were home-schooled, too, and I had many friends at church and at the soccer club. I go to a normal school now because my mum had to get a job, so she doesn't have time to teach us anymore. It's ok, but it's also a bit boring because all the lessons are the same, and the teachers at our school aren't very good.

EXERCISE 1 True, wrong or not in the text?

	T	W	NT
a) Sarah was home-schooled.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Sarah thinks that home-schooled kids don't have friends.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Sarah thinks that kids must learn to work in a team.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Jeff likes home-schooling because he was bullied in school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Jeff has many friends outside school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Mike knows somebody who is home-schooled.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Mike thinks it's good that home-schoolers don't have to get up early.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Mike's mum is good at math.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Haley's brothers and sisters were home-schooled, too.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Haley goes to a normal school now because her dad had to get a job.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

EXERCISE 2 Look at the text again and find all the arguments for and against home-schooling.

PRO	CON

EXERCISE 3 What do you think about home-schooling? Write a few lines. You can use the expressions from the box.

Seine Meinung ausdrücken: in my opinion (*meiner Meinung nach*) – I think (*ich denke*) – a good / bad idea (*eine gute / schlechte Idee*) – some things are good, but ... (*manches ist gut, aber ...*)

Ideen verbinden: also (*außerdem*) – because (*weil*) – but (*aber*) – however (*jedoch*)
– so (*also*) – for example (*zum Beispiel*)

[illegible]

Lösungen:

EXERCISE 1 True, wrong or not in the text?	T	W	NT
Sarah was home-schooled.			x
Sarah thinks that home-schooled kids don't have friends.	x		
Sarah thinks that kids must learn to work in a team.	x		
Jeff likes home-schooling because he was bullied in school.	x		
Jeff has many friends outside school.			x
Mike knows somebody who is home-schooled.			x
Mike thinks it's good that home-schoolers don't have to get up early.	x		
Mike's mum is good at Maths.		x	
Haley's brothers and sisters were home-schooled, too.	x		
Haley goes to a normal school now because her dad had to get a job.		x	

EXERCISE 2 Pro or con? Write down the arguments for and against home-schooling from the text.

Pro:

- decide where, when and how you study
- no bullying
- you needn't get up early
- study things that interest you
- classes at public schools aren't good
- you can have friends even if you're home-schooled (e.g. at church, clubs ...)
- time for projects and trips

Con:

- kids are always with their family
- can't make friends
- don't learn to work with other people
- not all parents are good teachers