

Video Transcript

Are schools the same in other countries?

Violet: Hello, are you ok? Do you need any help?

Kana: I am a bit lost. It's my first week here.

Violet: I see. My name's Violet. Nice to meet you.

Kana: I'm Kana.

Violet: I think you are in my social studies class.

Kana: Yes, I think so.

Violet: Where are you from Kana?

Kana: I'm from Japan.

Violet: Wow! Japan! I've always wanted to go there. It must be so cool. Are you from Tokyo? Is everything bigger and faster and more futuristic there?

Kana: No, I'm from a much smaller city. I live in the north of Japan. In a city called Akita.

Violet: I've heard that name before. Isn't that a type of dog?

Kana: Yes, that dog is from my hometown.

Violet: So, tell me all about life in Japan? What's your school life? Do you have much more technology?

Kana: (laughs) Our school is not so different but there are a few things that are different.

Violet: Like what?

Kana: Well, for example... Our school day starts a bit earlier - at about 8:30 and finishes at about 3:15. But most students stay on for 'Bukatsu' these are after school clubs and they finish at about 6:00pm.

Violet: Wow! That's a much longer day. It must be nice to get home.

Kana: (laughs) Yes, but then I have to do my homework.

Violet: How much homework do you get?

Kana: We get about two hours of homework every day and about three hours to do on Sunday.

Violet: Oh no! When do you fall asleep?

Kana: Sometimes I fall asleep when I'm doing my homework.

Violet: Speaking of homework - we have to do that project for social studies.

Kana: Yes, it's about schools in other countries.

Violet: Do you want to work together?

Kana: I'd love to!

Violet: What are the teachers like in Japan?

Kana: It depends. Some teachers are friendly. Some are very strict. But our school rules are a bit stricter.

Violet: Like what?

Kana: Well, we're not allowed to wear make-up or jewellery. We're not allowed to dye our hair.

Violet: So you have longer days, more homework and the uniform rules are stricter. You must be pleased to be here.

Kana: Yes, but it's not so bad. Do you know which country has the longest school day?

Violet: Is it Japan?

Kana: No, it's Taiwan. The average high school day starts at 7:30 and finishes at 5pm!

Violet: Jason, in which country do all students start school on their 4th birthday?

Jason: I don't know. Mongolia?

Violet: No, it's the Netherlands.

Kana: Which country has schools which are sometimes on boats?

Jason: Hmm, it has to be a country with lots of flooding. Is it Ireland?

Kana: No, it's a hotter country. It's Bangladesh.

Violet: True or False - In China are classes sometimes cancelled because of pollution levels in the air?

Jason: True?

Violet: Yes, it's true!

Kana: True or false. In Argentina it is normal to hug your teacher at the start of the day?

Jason: That must be false?

Kana: No, it's true!

Jason: What? Why?

Kana: In Argentina People are more tactile and like hugging. It's a normal part of the culture.

Violet: Which country do you think has the strictest education system?

Kana: The answer is South Korea. They have a long school day and lots of homework.

Violet: Which country has the most relaxed education system?

Kana: The answer is... Finland. Students there have the least amount of outside work and homework than any other student in the world.

Violet: And last question. Which country has the longest graduation parties?

Jason: The USA?

Violet: No.

Jason: Canada?

Kana: No.

Jason: The UK?

Violet: No, it's Norway. They have a two-week graduation before their final exams.

Jason: No way!

Kana: Yes, that's right. Norway!

Jason: Huh?

Violet/Kana: (laugh)

Violet: So, as you can see. Schools can be pretty different around the world.