

Three people are talking about their first day at high school.

Listening task 1: listen to Karen, Amy, and Patrick talk about their first day at high school, check the views expressed by each person in the following table.

First Amy;

So, Amy tell us about your first day of high school. Oh my gosh, I remember it so vividly because I had gone to a very small parochial school all my life and it was I that really pushed my mom to allow me to go to public school because I really wanted to experience the difference between public school and private school and all of my friends were going to public school and they were all talking about the different freedoms that they had there which I had never really experienced so here I was all of a sudden very afraid even though she and I had spent pretty much all summer discussing how I was going to do in public school and what might be expected of me and how I might have to be more of a self-starter because I don't know if you've ever been to private school but in private school everything is pretty much set up for you and you just have to follow along and the schools are fairly small but then when I went to high school and I actually saw it the school was tremendous I mean it was huge and my first thought was oh my gosh how am I ever going to be able to find my way around this really really huge building and then the bell rang it seemed like there were more kids there than I 'd ever seen together at one time in my entire life so did they have you wear any kind of uniform at the high school that was the other thing when my mom and I had gone shopping I really didn't have any idea what kind of clothes I should wear because first of all I had been really really sheltered and I didn't really have too much of an idea about fashion because I had never had to before we wore uniforms in private school so all of a sudden here I was trying to look like one of the the in crowd and I don't think I did too well so were the teachers very different at the high school or the size of the classes the classes were really really large in private school we maybe had eight to ten kids in a classroom and then all of a sudden here I was in a big classroom with maybe 30 students and one teacher who pretty much just wrote things on the board and it was up to you whether you wanted to follow it or not and the discipline system was so completely different kids were sort of talking and whispering and the school I came from that was so not allowed so how did you feel about that did you like high school better than junior high school

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in some ways I liked it more but in other ways I really missed the discipline in the structure.

Now Patrick;

So, Patrick tell us about your first day of high school. Uh, my first day oh boy well we just moved into a new neighborhood and I remember I was pretty excited I remember dressing up and wearing the tie and everything when I got there so it's kind of informal the kids were kind of like you know you wear what you want to wear but I was I guess I was kind of scared you know and excited at the same time I remember I was late because we just moved into the neighborhood and uh my my dad took me and then it was this warm really warm teacher uh Mrs.Serretta I remember her name and uh I mean what a greeting I mean she was in the middle of something you know orientation and everything but I remember got a great greeting I looked around everybody looked really friendly I mean these were all new new folks for me you know new students and everything I guess I felt pretty much at home I mean it was a very good experience in high school as a as opposed to junior high but it was very competitive high school I remember and uh I said hey I 'm gonna have to really hit the books you know which was kind of fun because uh a lot of the kids from Mike were in my class lived in my neighborhood and you know and they had like little study groups so it was pretty good experience I mean high school for me was uh was a fun time and a very nurturing time for me that's great.

Finally Karen;

So, Karen tell us about your first day of high school. I remember I didn't want to go I think I was really nervous about going to a very big new school and they had just built a new high school so more than half of my friends were going to another high school so I was getting ready to enter a high school where I didn't know anybody or so I thought and I yeah I was I was really nervous about that when I got there it wasn't that bad you know I went to my first period class and it turned out that one of my best friends ended up being in my class so that was pretty cool but overall I really didn't like high school that much I mean I don't know it was uh I just kind of couldn't wait to get out of there I actually I didn't find it that challenging you know I remember going and sitting in the classes and being kind of bored and uh yeah seriously and uh I always got good grades but I never had



to study much and uh it just was it was too easy I think yeah I don't think that I felt challenged enough to tell you the truth so did you enjoy your junior high school more than your high school I think I did yeah there was more of a sense of freedom strangely enough and I think when I entered high school for whatever reasons I was just a little more nervous about being someplace different where I didn't know anyone and so I think that's probably what was hard about it but yeah middle school definitely was a more fun time for me yeah.

Listening task two: now listen again and complete the summary.

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So, Amy tell us about your first day of high school. Oh my gosh, I remember it so vividly because I had gone to a very small parochial school all my life and it was I that really pushed my mom to allow me to go to public school because I really wanted to experience the difference between public school and private school and all of my friends were going to public school and they were all talking about the different freedoms that they had there which I had never really experienced so here I was all of a sudden very afraid even though she and I had spent pretty much all summer discussing how I was going to do in public school and what might be expected of me and how I might have to be more of a self-starter because I don't know if you've ever been to private school but in private school everything is pretty much set up for you and you just have to follow along and the schools are fairly small but then when I went to high school and I actually saw it the school was tremendous I mean it was huge and my first thought was oh my gosh how am I ever going to be able to find my way around this really really huge building and then the bell rang it seemed like there were more kids there than I 'd ever seen together at one time in my entire life so did they have you wear any kind of uniform at the high school that was the other thing when my mom and I had gone shopping I really didn't have any idea what kind of clothes I should wear because first of all I had been really really sheltered and I didn't really have too much of an idea about fashion because I had never had to before we wore uniforms in private school so all of a sudden here I was trying to look like one of the the in crowd and I don't think I did too well so were the teachers very different at the high school or the size of the classes the classes were really really large in private school we maybe had eight to ten kids in a classroom and then all of a sudden here I was in



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Listen for the third time to make sure you understood everything.

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Listen to Frank, Regina, and Sonia talking about something they're trying to learn what strategies are they using what problems are they having.

I'm having some trouble with chemistry this year it's hard the teacher acts like we're so smart we ought to have no trouble learning it I find a textbook confusing and then I get discouraged well some of us got together and formed a study group it seems to work okay most of the time we compare notes and then go over the discussion questions in each chapter the only problem is that sometimes one of my friends will come to the study group unprepared he'll forget his notes, or he won't have read the book beforehand that really bothers me I guess those guys who don't prepare and have a hard time on the final exam.

I'm trying to learn this new computer program at school it's kind of embarrassing most of the other kids have already picked it up and I just can't get it there's the software manual at school I borrowed the book and took it home to read, but it didn't seem to help there was simply too much information for me to remember my problem is that I don't have enough time to sit down and learn it properly I'm not sure what to do next.

I'm going to France next summer so I want to learn as much French as I can so I started taking a French class at the local community center well the great thing is the class is free the problem is it's not very easy well you see it's supposed to be a beginning level class no way I'm telling you most of the people in there they already knew how to speak French when they started the class they can say basic conversational phrases and they know how to pronounce the words I am a complete beginner I did not know one word of French when I started this class so I always be lost even from day one I had no idea what was going on now the teacher is nice but he's not very good he gets off the topic, and he'll get stuck on some tiny little point for like half an hour at a time, but you know I really shouldn't complain because after all this class is free.

Now listen again and check your answers.

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