

Mixer #83 – Free Education

We ask some people if university should be free.

1) Shalini says if it is free, students _____ .

- a) will study harder
- b) will study what they love
- c) will not have to work

2) Prae says if students pay _____ .

- a) they will have less stress
- b) they will make better choices
- c) they will work harder

3) Maiko thinks it should be free _____ .

- a) because high school is free
- b) regardless of one's income
- c) so students study harder

4) Paul says people should pay so _____ .

- a) people appreciate their education
- b) colleges can hire good teachers
- c) less people apply to college

5) Who paid for Eoin's studies?

- a) he paid for himself
- b) his parents
- c) the government

6) Lindsay says college should be free for _____ .

- a) everyone
- b) no one
- c) some people



Transcript

Shalini / Canada

Definitely. Definitely, I think it should be free. I think for one, depending on where you live, we all pay enough **taxes** that I think this is a **privilege** that would be enjoyed and I also think if it were to be free, students would really think hard about what they want to do, and let's say, they couldn't figure it out at an early age, they could join at any point in time and it wouldn't be a stress and everyone would have that freedom to be whatever they want, so yeah.



Prae / Thailand

I don't think college education should be free because students might not put as much **effort** that they are doing now because they know it's free and they can do it anytime they want.



Maiko / Japan

I think college education should be free if people want to study, they should be given the opportunity to learn **regardless** of how much money they have, so I think it would be a good system if students can apply and register without paying the fees.



Paul / England

I think people should have to pay for their education because otherwise there's a lot of people who'll just go to school and then they'll go to university and just study, and I think it takes away the importance of a university education, so if people have to pay more then I think it makes them more motivated, and yeah, it makes qualifications, a degree, more important.



Eoin / England

Yes, I definitely think college or university should be free. When I went to university in the U.K., the government paid for all of the fees, for any academic course that people wanted to study at that time.



Lindsay / United States

I think college should be free for those that **deserve** it. In other words, based on merit, if a child has worked really hard and shown that they have high goals and that they want to do well and use college to succeed, then I think that college should be free, but I don't think it should be free for those who haven't shown in high school that they care about school or that they care about learning.



Vocabulary

definitely

Definitely is a way to say yes, without any doubts. In other words, definitely means 100% yes.

- If you come to my country, you should definitely take a trip to the mountains.
- Can you promise that you will definitely come to the party?

taxes

The word 'taxes' refers to money that every citizen has to pay the country's government, in order for the government to provide security, infrastructure, etc.

- About 35% of my salary goes to taxes.
- Several of the presidential candidates are promising to lower taxes.

privilege

A privilege is a special benefit or advantage that not everyone has.

- It would be a privilege to go that university. All of the graduates are successful.
- In some countries, people don't even have the basic privilege of clean water.

effort

If you put effort into something you are doing, it means that you are working very hard. Another explanation for effort is to try your best. Here are some more samples:

- If you put in a little more effort, I think you will feel better about your work.
- I like skiing but it takes too much effort to get all the equipment and drive up to the mountains in bad traffic.

regardless of

In the example above, regardless of can be replaced with "it doesn't matter".

- Regardless of how long it takes you, I need you to clean up your room now.
- He kept playing regardless of the fact that he was bleeding.

deserve

When someone deserves something it means that they have worked very hard and they should get a reward or something in return for their effort. Notice the following examples:

- He doesn't deserve to get such a high grade, he always comes late.
- She had a very difficult childhood, but she worked hard through high school and she got the scholarship she deserved.

Vocabulary Quiz

definitely • privilege • effort • regardless • deserve

1. Given all the days I've worked overtime, I think I _____ a raise.
2. You should _____ buy that shirt; it looks great on you!
3. My grandmother taught me always to have a good attitude, _____ of the circumstances.
4. My seat was upgraded and I had the _____ of flying first class.
5. The doctors made an _____ to save the patient's life, but unfortunately were unsuccessful.