

# I. Textes

## Text 1. Pig money for college

### Facts and figures

There are 4,000 institutions of higher education in the United States, with a total enrollment of 15million students in colleges, universities, specialized schools or institutes such as the MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) or CalTech (California Institute of Technology).

They vary in size from some 3,000 to 60,000 students. They also vary in their organization. For instance the University of California has eight campuses, including UCLA (University of California in Los Angeles) while Harvard only has one (in Boston).

40% of the universities are public, but the most prestigious institutions are private. Thus the Ivy league is a group of eight old and famous universities and colleges of the Eastern seaboard: Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, Dartmouth, Brown, Cornell and the University of Pennsylvania.

The cycle leading to a Bachelor's degree lasts four years. Students can then move and enrol in graduate studies (to get a Master's degree) and postgraduate studies (to get a Doctor's degree or Ph.D.). Community colleges provide a two-year training, after which students can transfer to a university to get a Bachelors' degree. In 2010, 36% of enrolled students graduated in four years but it took six years to 57% of them.

Average cost varies greatly depending on states and universities, whether public or private. Four years of study – books, boarding and tuition fees included – represent an average of \$ 111,868 for public universities and \$ 161,904 for private ones (*collegeboard.com* 2010 figures). To pay for college most students take a job, get a loan (65% of them) or benefit from a scholarship.

“A student loan debt is like a ball and chain that you can drag to the grave, you can unhook it when they lay you in the coffin,” said W. Brewer, president of the Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys.

Data from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York indicate that:

- ◆ Americans aged 60 and over collectively owe \$36 billion in student loans.
- ◆ 5% of the \$ 85 billion delinquent student loans in the US is owed by borrowers aged 60 and over and another 12% is the responsibility of Americans aged 50 to 59.
- ◆ some seniors are burdened with debts related to higher-education degrees taken later in life, or because they co-signed for their children's or grandchildren's loans.

## Words you might need

*education* : l'enseignement  
*higher education* : l'enseignement supérieur  
*vocational training* : l'enseignement professionnel  
*nursery school (GB)* : l'école maternelle  
*kindergarten (US)* : le jardin d'enfants  
*primary school (GB)* : l'école primaire  
*elementary school (US)* : l'école primaire  
*secondary education (GB)* : le secondaire  
*high school (US)* : l'enseignement secondaire  
*a comprehensive (GB)* : un lycée polyvalent  
*a grammar school (GB)* : un lycée classique  
*junior high-school (US, grds 7-9)* : le collège  
*senior high-school (US, grds 10,-12)* : le lycée  
*a public school (US)* : une école publique  
*a public school (GB)* : une école privée  
*a prep school (US)* : une école privée  
*a boarding-school (GB)* : un internat  
*a degree* : un diplôme universitaire  
*a diploma* : un diplôme professionnel  
*tuition fees* : les frais de scolarité  
*a grant/a scholarship* : une bourse  
*a college* : une faculté  
*university* : l'Université  
*law school* : la faculté de droit  
*medical school* : la faculté de médecine  
*an institute* : un institut spécialisé  
*co-educational* : mixte  
*an academic* : un universitaire  
*a professor* : un professeur d'université  
*the faculty* : les professeurs (de l'université)  
*the dean* : le doyen  
*a freshman (US)* : un étudiant de 1<sup>re</sup> année  
*a sophomore (US)* : un étudiant de 2<sup>e</sup> année  
*a junior (US)* : un étudiant de 3<sup>e</sup> année  
*a senior (US)* : un étudiant de 4<sup>e</sup> année  
*to drop out* : abandonner ses études  
*a drop out* : quelqu'un qui a abandonné  
*a dorm (US)* : une résidence universitaire  
*a fraternity (US)* : un club d'étudiants

## Schoolwork : le travail scolaire

*a period (GB)* : une heure de cours  
*a class (US)* : une heure de cours  
*a class-room* : une salle de classe  
*a grade (US)* : une classe = un niveau  
*a form (GB)* : une classe = une section  
*a class (US)* : une classe = une section  
*the curriculum* : le programme d'études  
*the syllabus* : le programme annuel  
*the timetable (GB)* : l'emploi du temps  
*the schedule (US)* : l'emploi du temps  
*extra-curricular activities* : les activités extra- scolaires  
*PT (physical training)* : l'éducation physique  
*knowledge* : le savoir  
*discipline* : la discipline  
*a subject* : une matière, une discipline  
*the break* : la récréation  
*homework* : les devoirs et les leçons  
*the headmaster (GB)* : le directeur  
*the headmistress (GB)* : la directrice  
*the principal (US)* : le directeur, la directrice  
*to teach, taught, taught* : enseigner  
*a pupil (GB), a student (US)* : un élève  
*a student (GB & US)* : un(e) étudiant(e)  
*a teacher* : un enseignant (primaire/ secondaire)  
*the staff (GB)* : les enseignants  
*a textbook* : un manuel scolaire  
*a manual, a handbook* : une notice d'utilisation  
*the 3 R's (Reading, wRiting, Reckoning)* : les connaissances de base  
*literate* : qui sait lire et écrire  
*literacy* : le fait de savoir lire et écrire  
*literature (un seul T !)* : la littérature  
*a mark* : une note  
*illiterate* : illettré  
*illiteracy* : l'illettrisme  
*numerate* : qui sait compter

*numeracy* : le fait de savoir compter  
*a school record* : un relevé de notes  
*to skip classes/to play truant* : sécher  
*learned* : érudit  
*a scholar* : un érudit  
*to sit for/take an exam* : passer un examen  
*to pass an exam* : réussir un examen  
*to succeed* : réussir  
*success* : la réussite  
*to fail* : échouer  
*failure* : l'échec  
*to assess* : évaluer  
*an assessment* : une évaluation  
*the GCSE (General Secondary Education Exam) (GB)* : le BEPC  
*A levels (Advanced GCSE levels) (GB)* : le bac  
*SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test) (US)* : le certificat d'aptitude aux études supérieures  
*to graduate* : avoir obtenu son diplôme  
*a graduate* : un diplômé  
*graduation/commencement (US)* : la cérémonie de remise des diplômes  
*a term (GB)* : un trimestre  
*a semester (US)* : un semestre (de 3 mois)  
*the holidays (GB)* : les vacances  
*the vacation (US)* : les vacances  
*to be on holiday (GB)* : être en vacances  
*to be on vacation (US)* : être en vacances  
*art* : les arts plastiques  
*arts* : les lettres (et sciences humaines)

*a bachelor's degree* : une licence  
*a master's degree* : une maîtrise  
*a BA* : une licence ès lettres  
*a BSc* : une licence de sciences  
*postgraduate studies* : (au-delà de la licence)  
*a PH.D./a doctor's degree* : un doctorat  
*to attend a lecture* : assister à une conférence  
*a course* : un cours  
*a training session* : un stage  
*a trainee* : un stagiaire  
*a C.V (GB)* : un curriculum vitae  
*a resume (US)* : un curriculum vitae  
*to apply for* : déposer une candidature  
*an application* : une demande/candidature  
*an applicant* : un candidat à (un demandeur)  
*a candidate* : un candidat (élection/examen)  
*a desire to learn* : l'envie d'apprendre  
*to cope with* : faire face à  
*to consider doing* : envisager de faire  
*to aim at* : viser  
*to focus on* : se concentrer sur  
*to distance oneself from* : prendre du recul  
*to stand out* : se détacher  
*outstanding* : remarquable, exceptionnel  
*brilliant* : brillant  
*dull* : terne  
*to jeopardize* : compromettre  
*to put things into perspective* : relativiser  
*to catch an opportunity* : saisir une occasion  
*a wide range of choices* : toute une gamme de choix possibles

## Exercises

### 1. Pick out the equivalents from the text

- a. Domestic animals raised for profit
- b. People who offer to pay a certain price
- c. A public sale where items are sold to the person offering the highest price
- d. At risk, in question
- e. A big heavy pig
- f. A castrated bull
- g. Astonishing, amazing
- h. A grant to help a student attend college

### 2. Match the words and their equivalents in the text

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| a. A loan       | b. To borrow  |
| c. To lend      | d. To pay off |
| e. To write off |               |

### 3. Exploring the text

1. Say on which occasion the article was written.
2. What is the aim of the auction?
3. What elements sound typically Texan? Why is the word "big" repeated many times?
4. Say why these people are satisfied with the auction: Brady Leach, his father, John Hodges.
5. Say what you think of this system. What does it reveal about the situation of college students in the US?

### 4. Translate into English

#### Bébés prodiges

Anna répond aux questions en anglais, en espagnol et même en français. La petite New-Yorkaise a deux ans, un gros potentiel, et une maman très motivée. C'est le dernier chic américain que de faire entrer son enfant dans une maternelle privée d'élite pour lui donner toutes les chances de suivre une scolarité dans des classes primaires et secondaires d'élite, avant d'atteindre le saint des saints : une prestigieuse université américaine. Pour l'enfant, un QI élevé, pour les parents, un portefeuille bien garni sont, entre autres, deux conditions sine qua non d'admission, car ces écoles sélectives sont chères, et leurs directeurs exigent une implication des familles, à savoir du temps et des chèques. Il n'est désormais jamais trop tôt pour stimuler son bout de chou : dès trois ans, certains suivent des cours de perfectionnement.

Extrait de *TéléObs*, mars 2008

5. **Essay (200 words ± 10 %)**

1. What are the negative consequences of being burdened by debt from college on?
2. Do you understand why students are rebelling against the increase of tuition fees in Britain and Canada?

**Pig Money for College**

As the saying goes, everything is bigger in Texas. The land is big and the skies are bigger, but the largest thing may be the philanthropy found deep in the heart of some Texans who can't wait to help Texas children pay for college and minimize their debt from student loans.

Every year at the famous Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, big players with big cowboy hats and even bigger wallets try to outmaneuver each other like bidders at a fine art auction. However, unlike art collectors, the bidders at the rodeo try to drive up the winning prices as much as possible. They want to pay more. After all, college educations are at stake, and the bidders are determined to send as many Texas children to college as they possibly can.

The philanthropy on display at the rodeo is no joke. Kipper, a 278-pound dark male pig, went for \$ 178,000, the most ever for a hog at any livestock show in America. But the king of the auction was Freddy Krueger, a 1,288-pound steer that went for a staggering \$ 460,000. This year, the auctions at the livestock show took in \$ 9.2 million. Of that, \$ 4 million will go to the students whose animals or artwork qualified for an auction and \$ 4.8 million will go to the livestock show's educational fund, which provides additional money for scholarships, research grants, graduate assistantships, and other higher-education programs.

Brady Leach, the 18-year-old high school senior who raised Kipper in a small barn behind his house in Haskell, Texas, will get \$ 40,000. An additional \$ 10,000 from the auction price will go to a bonus pool to compensate exhibitors whose hogs failed to bring in the guaranteed auction amount. The remaining \$ 128,000 will go into the education fund. Brady's father bought Kipper, then eight weeks old, for \$ 500. And now, Kipper will put Brady through college. "All that work you put into it, it makes it all worth it when your pig does something great, like Kipper did," he said. "I couldn't have asked for a bigger blessing than Kip. He was incredible."

Jon Hodges and his wife, Jackie, contributed \$ 75,000 to the groups that bought Kipper. Over the last 10 years, they have spent about \$ 407,000 at the Houston swine auctions. For Hodges, president and chief executive of an industrial cleaning company called *Evergreen Environmental Services*, the auction is worth it. He frames the letters he gets from students he's helped and hangs them at his company's headquarters. "A lot of times they don't forget you," Hodges said. "You may purchase a swine at the auction and you'll get a letter three years later. The dollars are well spent."

Adapted from *financialaidnews*, April 9, 2012