

# Why Go To School?

Students might ask: “Why do I have to go to school? Why do I need to pass English, history, and math? One reason is that employers think that success in school is related to success on the job. Employers prefer to hire students who prove themselves by success in school. In a survey, employers were asked to list what things students should learn in school to help them succeed on the job. Employers answered that students should learn the following in school:

## IN SCHOOL — LEARN RESPONSIBILITY

**What is responsibility?** Responsibility is *dependability*, *reliability*, and *trustworthiness*. Dependability is shown on the job by reporting to work on time every day scheduled to work, calling in as soon as possible when sick, and asking one or two weeks in advance when time off is needed. Workers show **reliability** by doing each task correctly and completely. They also show **trustworthiness** by handling the company’s products and equipment with care and not taking anything home that belongs to the company.

**How do I learn responsibility?** In your school’s classes, you learn *dependability* by turning in each homework assignment when it is due, taking quizzes and tests on the correct days, and being in your seat when the tardy bell rings. You learn *reliability* by answering every question on homework assignments and bringing needed supplies to class each day. You learn *trustworthiness* by doing your own classwork and homework, writing your own term papers, and handling the textbook with care.

## IN SCHOOL — LEARN COMMUNICATION SKILLS

**What are communication skills?** Listening, reading, writing, and speaking are important communication skills for job success.

**How do I learn these skills?** Communication skills are used in all classes. English classes are especially responsible for teaching and giving you practice in communication skills. You learn to listen (and remember what was said) by not talking, writing notes to friends, or daydreaming while the teacher is lecturing. You learn to read (and remember what you have read) by taking notes to help you to understand the novel or essay. You learn to write by studying grammar, reading books, and doing the writing assignments that the teacher gives. You learn speaking skills needed for the work world by learning and practicing rules for giving a good speech.

## IN SCHOOL — LEARN MATH SKILLS

**What math skills are needed?** Employers surveyed said that it is important for students learn to do math and solve problems. One employer said it is important to learn how to solve a problem when “some pieces of the puzzles are missing.” This means students need to learn how to think to fill in information that may be missing in order to solve a problem.

**Where do I learn to solve problems?** In all your math classes! In fact, math classes have an benefit of teaching you the skill of thinking with logic so that you can succeed at solving different types of problems. Logic is the ability to think in steps using the correct way of thinking.



## IN SCHOOL — LEARN PUBLIC RELATION SKILLS

**What are public relation (or PR) skills?** The way you treat people and attitude you show to others are considered PR skills. Employers want their business to be organized, cheerful, and helpful to the customers, so workers need PR skills to be organized, cheerful, and helpful. PR skills are: a) Tact — saying or doing the right thing in difficult situations. b) Empathy — understanding how another person feels. c) Respect — having concern for another. d) Positive attitude — thinking the best about a person or situation.

**Where do I learn PR skills?** The discipline, effort, and attitude learned in sports programs are exactly the same skills needed for success in the work world. When playing sports, you are part of a bigger picture — that is, the team (or later, the company). You and the team must present a united and positive “face” to the other team no matter how you really feel inside. You must learn to “read” the other team so that you understand how they are thinking so that you can win. You must have respect for the official (or supervisor) so that you don’t get too many fouls or thrown out of the game (or fired). Team sports provide opportunities for learning the good PR skills that will make you valuable to employers.



## IN SCHOOL — LEARN INITIATIVE AND PRIDE

**What are initiative and pride?** Initiative is an ability to start a task without being told, and to continue working until it has been completed. Pride is the feeling of self-respect a person gets when a task has been done well. These traits often lead to raises and promotions.

**Where do I learn initiative and pride?** Initiative and pride can be learned during all years in school in all classes. Employers know that students who succeed in school have learned initiative and pride. For example: a) You build the initiative habit by always seeing what needs to be done and doing it without being told — such as having organized study time each night so that you are ready for the test — instead of cramming at the last minute. b) You build the pride (self-respect) habit by trying to get the best grades you can instead of the minimum required for passing. — and not even wanting to cheat.




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### QUICK CHECK:

- Whom do employers prefer to hire?
- a) How is dependability shown on the job?  
b) Reliability? c) Trustworthiness?
- a) In your school’s classes, what is one way to learn dependability? b) Reliability?  
c) Trustworthiness?
- a) How do you learn to listen? b) How do you learn to write?
- What does it mean to solve a problem when “some pieces of the puzzle are missing”?
- a) Besides learning math, what added benefit do you obtain from your math classes? b) What is logic?
- a) What are PR skills? b) Employers want their business to be what 3 things?
- Define the following: a) Tact. b) Empathy.  
c) Respect. d) Positive attitude.
- What 3 things learned in sports are needed for the success in the work world?
- In your opinion, what is meant by “you are part of a bigger picture”?
- Why must you learn to read the other team?
- Why must you have respect for the official or supervisor?
- a) What is initiative? b) What is pride?
- a) Give one example of how you can build the initiative habit. b) Give one example of how you can build the pride habit.
- List the name of a class that is teaching you the following skills this year:  
a) Responsibility. b) PR skills. c) Pride