

U.S. Class Vocabulary (for international students) The Definitions

Here are the definitions of words and expressions that are common in US classrooms.

Verbs

expression: "All set?" = Is everyone ready? Are you ready?

be graded down = to have one's grade lowered, such as from a B to a B-

count = to have an effect on one's grade

drop a course = to officially remove a course from one's schedule

fill in = to add information in a blank space

get back = to receive graded work after turning it in (as a student)

go over = to review

grade on a curve = to modify all students' grades to raise the average

hand in / turn in = to submit work to an instructor hand out / pass out = to distribute items to students

lose points = to not get full credit for something, such as an assignment make (obj.) up = to do an alternative work to raise one's grade after doing poorly

move on = to continue to the next item or topic

pass/give back = to return work to students

skip = to pass over an item without addressing it

turn to (+ page #...) = to physically find a specific page number in a book

Nouns

cheat sheet = a single paper or index card permitted by the instructor that a

student can write notes on and bring to a test to refer to

credit = points toward a grade on an assignment or for class

"easy A" = a class that is easy to do well in

extra credit = an optional extra problem or assignment for bonus points

full credit = 100%

review session = an in-class or out-of-class meeting to review for an exam

make-up test = a replacement test given if a student misses a test make-up policy = the course guidelines for making up missed work partial credit = less than 100% but some credit for the work done

participation points = points toward one's grade that a student gets for speaking prerequisite = a course required before one can take a higher-level course study guide = a guide from the instructor to help students prepare for a test

take-home exam = a test students can do at home on their own

used textbook = a book that has been used before and resold to students