

Post POLL



High School Regrets

It's not reading or writing but arithmetic and foreign languages that Americans say they wish they had spent more time studying when they were in high school. And, kids, study now or regret it later: More than 9 out of 10 Americans said they were sorry they didn't spend more time on at least one subject.

Q: Looking back, which, if any, subject do you wish you had paid more attention to in high school?

25%	Math
24	Foreign language
16	History
12	Science
10	Something else
8	English
5	No regrets or don't know

Roughly equal proportions of men, women, the young and the not-so-young all regretted not paying more attention to the same subjects in school. The better-educated respondents, however, were slightly more likely to lament not spending time learning a foreign language.

Percentage of each group that regrets not spending more time on a particular subject:

	High School or Less	College Graduates
Math	27%	21
Foreign language	18	32%
History	11	14
Science	18	13
Something else	11	7
English	10	8
No regrets or don't know	5	5

SOURCE: Washington Post national telephone survey of 1,010 randomly selected adults conducted Aug. 16-20. Margin of sampling error is plus or minus four percentage points for the overall results. Interviewing was conducted by ICR of Media, Pa.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Svarer. University of Copenhagen Centre for Applied Microeconometrics Working Paper 2006-11. A Danish economist finds that the probability that a worker will get divorced increases in proportion to the prevalence of the opposite sex in his or her workplace but that the gender ratio doesn't help single people find romance — suggesting that “the workplace constitutes a more important marriage market segment for individuals who are already in a partnership.”

Richard Morin is a senior editor at the Pew Research Center. Versions of this column appear at washingtonpost.com and www.pewresearch.org.