A **grading system in education** is a **system** that is used to assess the **educational** performance of a child, which is entirely based upon points alone.

* Why is the grading system bad?

Worse, points-based **grading** undermines learning and creativity, rewards cheating, damages students' peer relationships and trust in their teachers, encourages students to avoid challenging work, and teaches students to value **grades** over knowledge.

Generally, the **grading system** is the process by which educators evaluate the performance of the pupils in exams on the standard particular scales which is based on the points entirely and consist of the **grades** like A-F or range like 1-10; generally, letters and numbers are used to describe the **grades** of the scholars.

Ditching traditional **letter grades** reduces stress levels and competition among students, levels the playing field for less advantaged students, and encourages them to explore knowledge and take ownership of their own learning, Education Week reports.

**Grading** scales can be 1 to 7, 1 to 5, or A through F, where A is on a 4.0 **scale** or on a 5.0 **scale**. The most common **scale** is now 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest **grade** obtained. In addition, degrees are awarded in a Class, depending on the **grades** received.

**Question:** I am at a loss about how to use the following words correctly: **score, mark, point, and grade**.

* **SCORES**

A **score** is the total number of points that a student earns on a test or other schoolwork. For example, suppose you are telling your students about an upcoming test. You could say this: ***Each section is worth 25 points, for a total score of 100.***

You can also use “score” as a verb. In that case, it means to get points: ***Elaine scored well on her science test.***

* **MARKS and GRADES**

The word “**mark” is generally used in British English for the American word “grade**.” Both mean the same thing: a measure. Teachers in the United States are more likely to use the word “grade” for the number or letter that indicates how a student performed in a class or on a test. In the U.S., for example, many students get letter grades to represent their numeric score for a single paper or exam, as well as an entire term of study in a subject.

* **POINTS**

A point is a **numeric unit** that is used in tests and other schoolwork. We also use this word for classroom activities and games.

For example, you asked about what to tell a student who has done well in class. I would say, ***I will give you ten points for your correct answer.***

Or you might explain before you ask a question: ***I will give you ten points if you answer this question correctly*.**

**Understanding differences**

Now let’s go over a few differences.

The difference between the words “grades” and “points” is that **a grade is usually based on the number of points scored**. For example, if 100 points is the total, and the student got between 90 and 100 points, the student gets an A grade. A grade of B would go to scores of 80 to 89, C is for 70 to 79, and so on. In the U.S., a grade is almost always represented by a letter, and points by numbers.

When talking about the difference between two scores we could use a sentence like the one you asked about: ***Your score is five points higher this week than it was on last week’s test.* *You will get a good grade for the term.***

* **USEFUL VOCABULARY**

**point** – n. individual credit for a correct answer

**mark** – n. in British English, a letter assigned to a range of points

**score** – n. the result of combining points; v. to achieve or earn something such as points or a grade

**grade** – n. a letter assigned to a range of points

**range** – *n.* a series of numbers that includes the highest and lowest possible amounts

**letter grade** – *n.* a letter assigned to a score or a value; A = excellent, B = good, C = average and so on.

*Do you have a question for the teacher? We want to hear from you. Write to us in the Comments Section* or send us an email at [learningenglish@voanews.com](mailto:learningenglish@voanews.com).