I'm not a bot

Hello everybody, I am a bit confused by the usage of these three words referring to the results of an exam. Are these phrases correct? You got a grade 10 in maths in April. My marks at school are not very good this year. Any other examples on the correct way of using these....? Thank you for any help..... Score: A number correct out of a total. Scoring is a fairly mechanical process. Grade: A general assessment based to an extent on subjective assessment, and perhaps involving a number of different aspects of performance. Could be a number, a letter - to be honest, it could even be a colour as long as someone has set out the significance of each result. Mark: A number, typically xx%. A pseudo-scientific version of grade Please do not regard any of these as being absolute truths - they are comments based on my personal experience. You got a grade 10 in maths in April. You got a B in maths in April. You got 87% in maths in April. My marks at school are not very good this year. The sentence is fine, shame about the marks. A mark is something you get in a test or exam or even on your homework. I got a mark of 75% in the last exam. My marks are not very good because I haven't been reading enough. The teacher gave me a good mark for my last piece of homework. A grade is - as far as I'm aware - used specifically for the letters that recognise particular levels of achievement. We use A-E for passes, F for a fail, N for the so-called "near miss" (if you nearly pass) and a U for something that's so bad it can't be corrected. He got an A grade in the exam. 40% of pupils passed with grades A to C. Of course this only applies to England and Wales, as I know usage is different in other English-speaking countries. Hope that helps! Wonderful help, thank you very much to you both.....! It's a little ambiguous unless you know how they are graded. It might be marks out of 10 or 100 or there could be grades 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and e.g. to achieve a grade 1 you have a certain mark, say, over 80% It's interesting that all the English speakers who have discussed marks are BE speakers. We hardly ever refer to a "mark" in AE. It's usually a score on an exam if it's objective, a grade on an exam if it's not, and a grade in a course. (The verb "to mark" is still heard once in a while in this context, as in the statement "I'm marking exams.") Also, "maths" is BE. In AE, the short form of "mathematics" is "math." I use all three more or less interchangeably, but "mark" is the least common of the three in my neck of the woods. Score: A number correct out of a total. Scoring is a fairly mechanical process. Grade: A general assessment based to an extent on subjective assessment, and perhaps involving a number of different aspects of performance. Could be a number, a letter - to be honest, it could even be a colour as long as someone has set out the significance of each result. Mark: A number, typically xx%. A pseudo-scientific version of grade Please do not regard any of these as being absolute truths - they are comments based on my personal experience. You got a grade 10 in maths in April. You got a B in maths in April. You got 87% in maths in April. My marks at school are not very good this year. The sentence is fine, shame about the marks. Is it natural to say my grades are not very good this year. Score: A number correct out of a total. Scoring is a fairly mechanical process. Grade: A general assessment based to an extent on subjective assessment, and perhaps involving a number of different aspects of performance. Could be a number, a letter - to be honest, it could even be a colour as long as someone has set out the significance of each result. Mark: A number, typically xx%. A pseudo-scientific version of grade Please do not regard any of these as being absolute truths - they are comments based on my personal experience. You got a grade 10 in maths in April. You got a B in maths in April. You got 87% in maths in April. My marks at school are not very good this year. The sentence is fine, shame about the marks. Is there a difference between "My score is 80 in maths" and "My mark is 80 in maths"? Last edited: Jan 18, 2015 When I was a schoolboy, we never said "My mark is ...". We said, "I got 80 in maths." When I was a schoolboy, we never said "My mark is ...". We said, "I got 80 in maths." Thank you. How to ask the performance of someone in maths. As you said, would you say "What did you get in maths" and never say how many marks you got? Yes, you would often hear "What did you get in maths?" at my school. What if I want to say that the maximum score you can get on this exam is 50? Could I say the exam's score is 50? Or would I say grade (or a different word completely)? I would say either "the top score in the exam is 50", or more probably, "the maximum number of marks is 50". You can't say "The exam's score is 50": that sounds odd. If the candidates in the exam get grades rather than marks, then you would say "the top grade is an A" (although in the UK some exams now have an A* grade). Thanks, DonnyB. One more thing: if the passing grade for the course is 60%, could I say the top score is 50 and the average is 30? Or "average" is not used in this context? Hi felipenor If the maximum score is 50 and you need 60% to pass, I'd say "the pass mark is 30". "Average" is something quite different. If two people took the course and one scored 50 while the other scored 0, the average mark was (50+0)/2 ie 25. ---- Note: I'm a speaker of British English; so is DonnyB. Given that you're from Brazil, I suspect you speak American English - so I hope some AmE-speakers will give you their comments soon. As you'll see from some of the posts above, AmE usage in this area differs from BrE usage. If the maximum is 50 marks, I might also say that the test or exam is marked out of 50. I would not use score in this context, but that's because I use BrE style English. I've heard AmE speakers use score and also points. Thanks for the answers, guys. I'm an English teacher in Brazil, and I need to write the header (I'm not sure that's the correct name) in English, so I nees a simple way to put this information. As in: English exam Top score: 50 Pass score: 30 Would that be correct? I think maximum is better than top. Top mark for me is the highest mark achieved. I say, 'The top mark is 82' for a test marked out of 100, for example. Thank you, natkretep. So: English exam Maximum score: 50 Pass score: 30 Is that correct? Is it preferable if I use maximum mark and pass mark instead? Given Egmont's post 7 and ribran's post 8, I think you should probably avoid "mark" - assuming, that is, you speak and teach American English. I was wondering whether it is natural to say my grades are not very good this year. One more question. Can I say: English exam Maximum score: 50 points Pass score: 30 points As a BrE-style speaker, I use points for competitions, quizzes or games but not for exams. Let's wait for an AmE speaker's response to this. I was wondering whether it is natural to say my grades are not very good this year. Yes, that's perfectly OK, assuming that the results of your exams are expressed as grades rather than actual marks (or scores). Yes, that's perfectly OK, assuming that the results of your exams are expressed as grades rather than actual marks (or scores). Got it. Thank you very much. < Off topic. > Off-topic comment removed: Cagey, moderator. Last edited by a moderator: Aug 17, 2015 So Yes, that's perfectly OK, assuming that the results of your exams are expressed as grades rather than actual marks (or scores). So "My grades are not good" can't be said if your school uses points (0 to 100) to assess learning? In my experience in school, exam papers are returned with marks (0 to 100, 0 to 60, and so on), but the assumption is always that these marks 'translate' to some grade (distinction/merit/pass/fail, or A/B/C etc, or 1/2/3 etc), and because of that grade still works for me. In my experience in school, exam papers are returned with marks (0 to 100, 0 to 60, and so on), but the assumption is always that these marks 'translate' to some grade (distinction/merit/pass/fail, or A/B/C etc, or 1/2/3 etc), and because of that grade still works for me. And for me. So "My grades are not good" can't be said if your school uses points (0 to 100) to assess learning? Well, when I was at school, our exam "marks" were always expressed as percentages, so I'd say something like "I always got very good marks for French". It wasn't until we took our GCEs (which were public exams), that bands of marks were 'translated' into grades. So I'd then say "For French, I got an O level grade 1, and an A level grade A". I was wondering whether it is natural to say my grades are not very good this year. That would sound very natural to me if said by an AmE speaker, and not at all natural from a BrE speaker. In my experience, as Donny said, we (BrE) don't talk about grades in the context of year-by-year performance at school (or indeed of performance throughout a given year): we'd say "marks". (Disclaimer: Unless things have changed since my day! Actually, they have: there are now National Curriculum tests ('SATs') in primary schools, and they don't have 'marks', 'grades', 'scores', or 'points': they have 'levels'.) Ws That would sound very natural to me if said by an AmE speaker, and not at all natural from a BrE speaker. In my experience, as Donny said, we (BrE) don't talk about grades in the context of year-by-year performance at school (or indeed of performance throughout a given year): we'd say "marks". (Disclaimer: Unless things have changed since my day! Actually, they have: there are now National Curriculum tests ('SATs') in primary schools, and they don't have 'marks', 'grades', 'scores', or 'points': they have 'levels'.) Ws Got it. Thank you very much. In my experience, as Donny said, we (BrE) don't talk about grades in the context of year-by-year performance at school (or indeed of performance throughout a given year): we'd say "marks". But there are grades for GCSE and A level subjects, aren't there? ASA (the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance), for example has explanations about converting raw marks to UMS (uniform mark scale) marks, which can be converted to a grade. Because of that it doesn't sound totally un-British to talk about grades. But there are grades for GCSE and A level subjects, aren't there? […] Because of that it doesn't sound totally un-British to talk about grades. I quite agree, Nat. Donny had already made that point about GCEs (and therefore GCSEs) in #37, and I fully agree: there we do talk about grades. I was picking up on Sun's particular question about "my grades are not very good this year", which is likely to refer to internal school assessments, either once a year or even throughout the year. The key words in my comment were the ones I've bolded below. I was wondering whether it is natural to say my grades are not very good this year. […] In my experience, as Donny said, we (BrE) don't talk about grades in the context of year-by-year performance at school (or indeed of performance throughout a given year): we'd say "marks". So "I got good grades in my A levels" is perfectly BrE; but I still reckon that "My grades aren't good this year" or "Johnny's getting poor grades this semester" would be pretty un-British statements. Ws Last edited: Aug 20, 2015 Maybe the easier way to appreciate the distinction is to compare the processes: Marking Going through a paper to assign marks. Scoring Adding up the marks to get a score for the paper. Grading Assigning the score to broad categories known as grades, e.g. A,B,C, 1,2,3 etc. Although marks and scores can be used interchangeably in some cases, in others, there is a clear distinction. e.g. I lost a mark for that wrong question. But not... *I lost a score for that wrong question. The exam is marked out of 50. The sentence above is British (also mentioned in post #21). How would Americans say the green sentence? Thank you. I would say something like "There are 50 points possible in this exam." The students might say things like "I got 45 [points] out of 50." This is commonly written on the exam paper as "45/50." I would not say 'scored out of 50', but perhaps someone else would. I would probably say "graded out of 50 points," but I'd consider "scored out of 50" to be an acceptable alternative. This post and the following ones have been added to a previous thread covering the same topic. Please read down from the top. DonnyB - moderator. Hi! I'm confused about which of the following sentences is correct: My grades have improved. My scores have improved. My marks have improved. thx! Last edited by a moderator: May 23, 2019 In the US we would normally use "grades" for schoolwork, but "scores" for standardized tests like the SAT. I would say either "the top score in the exam is 50", or more probably, "the maximum number of marks is 50". You can't say "The exam's score is 50": that sounds odd. If the candidates in the exam get grades rather than marks, then you would say "the top grade is an A" (although in the UK some exams now have an A* grade). My heart got broken into 10 pieces and 10 is also the mark or score or number or point that I had got in every subject? Last edited: Sep 11, 2019 Page 2 My heart got broken into 10 pieces and 10 is also the mark or score or number or point that I had got in every subject? I'm struggling to understand your question, in part because it is not clear what your question is. You can say you 'got ten marks' or maybe 'a score of ten' in every subject. I associate 'score' more with games. You can't say 'I got a number of ten' because that isn't correct English. Saying 'I got ten points' is more usual for a game score than a school test or exam. Mostly we don't specify a name for what we got. We usually answer a question, such as -"What did you get in the English test?" - "I got (a) ten". - "That's awful! You failed!" -"No I didn't - the top mark is ten!" I'm struggling to understand your question, in part because it is not clear what your question is. You can say you 'got ten marks' or maybe 'a score of ten' in every subject. I associate 'score' more with games. You can't say 'I got a number of ten' because that isn't correct English. Saying 'I got ten points' is more usual for a game score than a school test or exam. Mostly we don't specify a name for what we got. We usually answer a question, such as -"What did you get in the English test?" - "I got (a) ten". - "That's awful! You failed!" -"No I didn't - the top mark is ten!" "My heart got broken into 10 pieces and 10 is also the mark that I had got in every subject." Is this sentence correct? Hello, everyone! I have to revive this thread. Given the following statement... It's usually a score on an exam if it's objective, a grade on an exam if it's not, and a grade in a course. ..., I'd like to ask if, according to American English, it is grammatical to say "Your score/grade/mark on Unit 3 was..." or "Your score/grade/mark for Unit 3 was...". If not, could you please provide the preposition that you consider the most adequate? Thank you in advance. "Your score/grade/mark for Unit 3 was...". Hello. Score and grade sound normal and likely to me. People typically use score with numbers: Your score on the exam was 98. They typically use grade with letters: Your grade on Unit 3 was a B. Hello. Score and grade sound normal and likely to me. People typically use score with numbers: Your score on the exam was 98. They typically use grade with letters: Your grade on Unit 3 was a B. Thank you, Owlman! I am sorry to insist. Given that you took the sentence in which I used "for" but you gave feedback about "on", I understood that the usage of "on" is correct, but I still do not know if the usage of "for" is also correct in that context, not considering mark anymore. You're welcome. I understood that the usage of "on" is correct, but I still do not know if the usage of "for" is also correct in that context, not considering mark anymore. For sounds reasonable to me. I really appreciate your help. In American schools in American English by far the most common preposition is "on", in my experience, for everyday work. You get a grade on a paper in English class which might be an essay or some other composition. You get a score on a test in a science class that has a number of different questions. You might get an A on a project you were assigned to do. The main place were "on" is not used is the final grade for an entire course/class. In that context it's usually "in" and sometimes "for". - My final grade in chemistry was a B+. My heart got broken into 10 pieces and 10 is also the mark or score or number or point that I had got in every subject? "10" can be a mark (more likely in BrE) or a score (more likely in AmE, I assume). 'Number' doesn't work in this context. 'Point' has to be plural. For example, "I got 10 points in my geography test".