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History of Desk in School by [Harry Yadav](#)

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I was on a visit to one of the renowned schools of the city where I live with my family to get the admission form for my son, as we were planning to admit him in school. While coming back from the office room of the school, I passed by the classroom of seventh standard Section-A. I thought to have a look of the classroom so that I can figure out the discipline of the school as classrooms reflect the discipline of the students and the school. The more the classrooms are organized, the more students are disciplined and so is the school.

Since the school was a reputed one, so I expected at least the benches to be in their right places. I peeped into the classroom and there my expectation gone down. The desk and benches were not at all kept in order and even the duster was kept on the extreme last bench of the classroom. I took my decision then and there that I am not going to admit my child in such a school where children are not taught of how to keep the benches in proper order. School desks were invented after 1880. Before that time, children hardly went to school because there were no laws that were mandatory such as children must have to attend school.

Many of the children worked in factories or for their parents. The lucky ones of them who got education were given tuition at home where they studied at adult-sized desks and benches. If any of them ever did go to any actual school, they either studied on the long tables of the lecture halls, or, in poorer areas, they used to sit on benches where they studied without any desk and kept the notebooks on their laps to write. In Sidney, John D. Loughlin, made the first school desk in 1880. The desk was then called as "The Fashion Desk" was proved to be extremely popular across the country. The "Fashion Desks" were desks that were attached to one another and were big enough for two or three children to sit.

These days, school desks come in a different variety of sizes and styles. Some are specially made for small kids, while others are made to accommodate adults as well. Most of today's classroom furniture adds modern material like high tech laminate. Open front storage of the furnitures has become popular now, and most of them are self contained lightweight units. In the present days, the wooden bench seats have been replaced by comfortable molded plastic seats. The wire book racks under the seats normally are the part of the unit. The table tops range in different sizes, right from full size to tablet size.

With all the improved materials in the classroom, it does not look complete without desks and benches in it. No matter how beautifully the classroom has been decorated, but it looks dirty if the desks and benches are not maintained properly or if students have written over those or scratched with pen.

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