

'Beautiful locations to learn in': readers' favourite creative breaks

Level 2: Intermediate

Article summary: This article shares the opinions and advice of Guardian readers about their retreats and holidays focused on learning and personal growth.

Time: 60 minutes

Skills: Reading, Speaking, Writing

Language focus: Word forms

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student

1. Warmer

- a. The purpose of this activity is to encourage students to think creatively about the different types of activities people can do on holiday. Explain that everyone has their own preferences. Have students brainstorm ideas for each category on their own. Then ask volunteers to share their suggestions. Write the suggestions on the board and have students raise their hands to show which activities they would like to try while on holiday.

Language Note: The word *vacation* is used in place of *holiday* in American English.

2. Key words

- a. Ask students to work individually or in pairs to complete the definitions and then find the words in the article. Allow a few minutes for students to check answers in pairs or groups before checking answers with the whole class.

Key:

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. a | 8. b |
| 2. c | 9. a |
| 3. b | 10. c |
| 4. c | 11. b |
| 5. c | 12. c |
| 6. b | 13. a |
| 7. a | 14. b |

- b. Ask students to work individually or in pairs to complete the sentences using the words from the previous activity. Encourage students to read complete sentences to you when they give answers, so you can check their pronunciation of the key words. To extend the activity, have students make sentences of their own with the key words.

Key:

1. *immersed*
2. *tend*
3. *nostalgic*
4. *eccentric*
5. *roaring*
6. *scenery*
7. *tranquil*
8. *transformative*

3. Comprehension check

- a. Students can work individually or in pairs to do this activity. Encourage students to underline the section in the article where they found the answers.

Key:

1. *False – Wider Horizons is an event for (young) people aged 18-30.*
2. *True*
3. *True*
4. *False – Gladstone's Library is the only residential library in the UK.*
5. *True*
6. *False – Creative Escapes takes people to many different countries like Japan.*
7. *True*
8. *False – Arvon retreats are for people who want to learn more about creative writing / creative nonfiction.*

4. Key language

- a. Students work individually to complete the table with the correct forms of the words. Remind students to check the spelling of their answers.

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Key:

1. *gather*
2. *creativity*
3. *create*
4. *arrival*
5. *transform*
6. *transformative*
7. *inspiration*
8. *inspire*
9. *silence*
10. *silent*

- b. Students now complete the sentences with the words from the table. They can do this activity individually or in pairs. To extend, have students make and share sentences with other forms of the words.

Key:

1. *gather*
2. *Creativity*
3. *arrival*
4. *transform*
5. *inspiration*
6. *silent*

5. Discussion

- a. Students discuss the questions in pairs or groups. Ask them to justify their opinions, referring to their own experiences whenever possible. To extend the activity, have students take turns sharing their favourite holiday experiences, either in small groups or with the class.

6. In your own words

- a. The aim of this task is to encourage students to reflect on what they read about in the article. Have them research a retreat or tour company that offers educational experiences in their area, like cooking classes, language immersion, sports camps or creative activities. After students complete the research, they should write a brief description to encourage other people to visit this location. Ask students to analyse the style of the opinions in the article. Remind them to include specific examples to support claims like *You'll learn a lot on this holiday*.
- b. Have students share their writing with the class. To extend the activity, have the class vote on which holiday they would like to try the most.