

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

Level 1: Elementary

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

Language focus: Word forms

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student

- b. Ask students to work individually or in pairs to complete the sentences using the words from task a. 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. *nostalgic*
2. *scenery*
3. *tranquil*
4. *mythology*
5. *unique*
6. *retreat*

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 tick the activities they enjoy. They can also add their own ideas. Conduct a class survey to see which activities people enjoy most and write the results on the board.
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. <i>a</i> | 6. <i>b</i> |
| 2. <i>c</i> | 7. <i>a</i> |
| 3. <i>b</i> | 8. <i>c</i> |
| 4. <i>b</i> | 9. <i>b</i> |
| 5. <i>c</i> | 10. <i>c</i> |

3. Comprehension check

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

Key:

1. *False – Wider Horizons is an outdoor gathering in Berkshire for young people (18 to 30 years old).*
2. *True*
3. *False – Gladstone's Library is the only residential library in the UK.*
4. *True*
5. *False – Creative Escapes takes people on international holidays in any country. Sharon went to Sicily and Japan.*
6. *True*
7. *False – Arvon retreats are for people who want to learn creative non fiction writing.*

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. Students can use a dictionary for help.

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Key:

1. *gather*
2. *creativity*
3. *create*
4. *transform*
5. *inspire*
6. *inspirational*
7. *silent*

- b. Students now complete the sentences with the words from the task a. They can do this activity individually or in pairs.

Key:

1. *gather*
2. *creative*
3. *transform*
4. *inspire*
5. *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 tour company that offers educational experiences, like cooking classes, language immersion, sports camps or creative activities. After students complete the research, they should make a poster. Tell students to include all of the relevant information for guests in their poster, like location, time, cost and activities. They can also add photos or drawings.
- b. Have students share their posters with the class. To extend the activity, have the class vote on which holiday they would like to try the most.