

Chapter 5, Hobbies and free time activities

Answer the following questions in details.

1. Do you have enough free time?
2. What hobbies are popular in your area?
3. Which hobbies are cheap and which are expensive?
4. Are there any hobbies that cost nothing?
5. Are there any dangerous hobbies?
6. Are there enough places of entertainment in your town?
7. How could young people spend their free time better?
8. Do men and women spend their free time differently in your family?
9. Do people's leisure time activities change as they get older? How?
10. What do you really hate having to do in your free time?
11. Have hobbies changed in the past 50 years? How?
12. How popular is it to spend free time with travelling?
13. Do you prefer going to the theatre compared to going to the cinema?
14. Is it all right for parents to use the television as a baby-sitter?
15. How much time should people spend on watching television?
16. What could be the problems of watching television too much?
17. Are there people in your community who relax by drinking alcohol? What are the dangers of drinking?
18. Should the town leadership provide meaningful free time activities?

GB: theatre
US: theater

Give detailed reasons why you agree or disagree with the following statements.

1. I don't have a hobby as I think that hobbies are not important at all.
2. Schools should reduce the time of teaching and provide more time for meaningful free time activities.
3. People have too much free time these days. They should work more.
4. The best way of spending free time is to collect something.
5. All hobbies are boring and expensive.
6. Playing computer games is better than playing sports.
7. Children should work around the house in their free time.
8. Adults have to work too much these days because expenses are high.
9. The local government provides opportunities for people to recreate.
10. Travelling makes people more tired than relaxed so they should find other ways to spend their leisure time.
11. I hate it when too many visitors flood the streets in my town.
12. Hobbies are the most important things in life.
13. Everybody would stop work and relax if a base salary was introduced.
14. There should be space hotels now for wealthy tourists.
15. How people spend their free time will change significantly in the next few decades.
16. Shared free time activities can strengthen families.

GB: travelling
US: traveling

Writing

1. Write a short blog entry about your free time activities/hobbies. Why do you like doing those?
2. You have read an article about the importance of meaningful free time activities. You want to share your opinion about this topic with the readers of the newspaper.
3. Is collecting things popular in your area? Have you ever collected anything? Why, or why not? Write a blog entry about it.
4. Someone suggested that people should not work more than four days a week so that they can relax better. What are some of the pros and cons of reducing work time? Is it really so important to have more free time?
5. Your friend Jack is a workaholic. He is a computer programmer and he loves spending his free time working on project for his workplace. Try to convince him that what he is doing is wrong and he should find some activities that are not related to his work. What would be the benefits of joining a gym?
6. Are there enough well-equipped playgrounds in your town for children to play after school? Do they have enough time to use those? Write an article for the paper of your school in which you recommend improvements.
7. Jill loves to spend her free time window shopping in a local mall. Do you consider it time well spent or do you have some recommendations of spending her time differently? Write her an e-mail with your thoughts.
8. Your pen-friend in America works in a busy office. She is worried a little bit that sedentary work can cause health problems on the long run. She wants to get some advice from you. What can she do to prevent such problems? What would be some ideal activities to live a well balanced life?
9. You read about a survey on how free time activities have changed over the past few decades for young children. Computers and smart phones seem to diminish interpersonal relations. Instead of playing sport games they tend to play computer games. Tell your friend about the survey and suggest possible ways on how to motivate children to do physical exercise instead of spending most of their time with their gadgets.
10. Your uncle works as a mechanic in a factory. It is a very tiresome job. However, after he finishes for the day, he usually works in the field producing crops to sell. When he has free time, he usually relaxes in front of the television watching football matches. He has never traveled on a holiday. Try to convince him to spend a long weekend at a wellness hotel.
11. As prices increase, more people like to choose an active holiday instead of a passive one. What are some popular places and activities in the country? What kind of holiday would you prefer and why?

