

# Holidays are a Waste of Time!

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## Activity 1

*Match the jokes in Column 1 with their punchlines in Column 2. Do you get the jokes? Do you think they are funny? With your partner discuss why/not.*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Last year I went on holiday to forget everything:                        | a) seven days and two nights!   |
| 2. Last year I got a bargain holiday deal:                                  | b) that one day the tide went out and never came back!                          |
| 3. Last year I went on a trip to Lapland:                                   | c) sandy beaches for the children, sun for the wife and sharks for the in-laws! |
| 4. Last year I went to a seaside resort which was so dull,                  | d) and when I opened my suitcase I realised I had!                              |
| 5. Last year I went to Australia. It was great; it had everything I wanted: | e) five nights and five nights!   |

## Activity 2

*Use the following questions to begin a conversation with your partner.*

1. Do you think you get enough days off each year? How many weeks' holiday do you get? What would be the ideal amount?
2. Do you take any work/studying with you on holiday? Why/not?
3. Do you go to bed early and get lots of rest on holiday or do you stay up late and let your hair down? How restful are your holidays?
4. Are holidays too expensive? Do you think it's right that prices are higher in peak season? Do you try to avoid tourist traps when you are on holiday?
5. What can ruin a holiday? In what ways can a holiday be stressful?
6. Do you think we really need holidays? Why/not? Why don't we just spend holidays at home, relaxing?
7. Do you ever get bored when you are on holiday? Why?

## Activity 3

*Discuss the following joke with your partner. How true do you think it is?*

**Holidays are a waste of time because a holiday is something which turns somebody who's tired into somebody who's exhausted!**

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## **Activity 4**

Are holidays a waste of time? You are going to take part in a discussion about this question on an Internet Forum at **EnglishClub.com**.

### **Task 1**

1. Did most people agree or disagree that holidays are a waste of time?
2. What was the most common reason given for agreeing or disagreeing?

### **Task 2**

1. Read the post your teacher has put on the board at:  
<http://forum.englishclub.com/projects/> and summarize the main points.
2. Choose one point from your teacher's post which you strongly agree or disagree with and post a short paragraph in reply, stating your reasons and giving examples from your own experience where possible.

### **Task 3**

1. Read the responses other students post to your teacher. Choose one you strongly agree with and one you strongly disagree with and post responses, explaining your opinion.
2. Make notes of the new words and phrases you have learned from participating in this Forum discussion activity that will help you to communicate your point of view on this subject in a classroom discussion.

### **N.B. Netiquette!**

**PLEASE CHANGE THE DEFAULT SUBJECT LINE  
TO INDICATE THE OPINION/S IN YOUR POST BECAUSE IN A BUSY  
THREAD IT HELPS PEOPLE TO DECIDE WHICH POSTS TO READ!**

## **Activity 5**

Have you seen 'City Slickers' starring Billy Crystal? It's a comedy about a group of men who go on holiday together to get away from city life. They go to a ranch and learn to be cowboys. Why not try to see it in the original language?

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