

Recreation



Unit 3: Lesson 1A



Intermediate (B1-B2)



Objectives

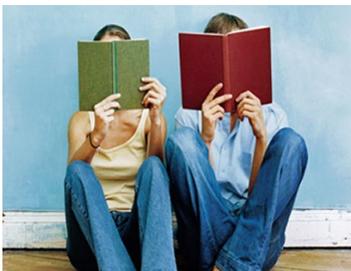


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In this lesson you are going to talk about free time and recreation activities.

After completing this lesson you should be able to:

- ▶ Say how you feel about your free time and the recreational activities and pastimes you pursue.
- ▶ Discuss what it takes to become good at different leisure activities.
- ▶ Review and extend vocabulary you can use to talk about leisure activities.



TIME FOR REVIEW

Language review

A Read these extracts from texts written to attract tourists to different places.



Chennai's amazingly diverse neighbourhoods give you an enticingly close-up flavour of South India. Explore tradition at a leisurely

pace or stop off for an afternoon's shopping at the many surprisingly upmarket boutiques. A real mix of styles are to be found here by the discerning traveller.



Globally renowned for its panoramic views and amazing cableway, Rio de Janeiro's iconic Sugar Loaf Mountain is a must for visitors to

Brazil's truly 'marvellous city'. From its summit you'll view lushly forested hillsides, refreshingly clear coastal waters, and superbly enticing beaches, as well as uniquely awe-inspiring cityscapes at your feet.



Grand Cayman in the western Caribbean for most people brings to mind prohibitively expensive shops, global finances and cocktails

overlooking the white sands of Seven Mile Beach. Head east and you'll find a completely different side to the island. Here you'll escape the crowds and experience maritime natural wonders first hand.

B *Work with a partner.*
Find examples of these patterns.*

- ◆ adjective + noun, e.g. *diverse neighbourhoods*
- ◆ adverb + adjective, e.g. *amazingly diverse*

**See last page for suggestions*

C Read this description of a city.



Situated at the confluence of two great rivers, Recife, in north-eastern Brazil, is considered by many of its four million

inhabitants to be the jewel of the state of Pernambuco. Not only is Recife widely acknowledged as a cultural and educational centre of importance, its proximity to rainforests and many fabulously relaxing beaches make it a true magnet for tourism. The city is also a financial and business centre boasting a diverse range of industries, including a high concentration of hi-tech companies. Celebrations are held year round but preparation for Carnival starts in December and groups of musicians can be seen practicing on the streets from this month onwards.

D *Work with a partner.* Plan and write a similar description about a city or region you know.

E Show your description to the *other students* in your class.

Comment on the texts you read.

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A

A

Before you start.

Which of these comments comes closest to describing how you feel?

I've rarely got time to do the things I like doing for leisure.

I have to spend a lot my free time looking after my brothers and sisters. I don't get to spend more than a few hours a week on my personal interests.

My leisure pursuits are very important to me. I work hard at school but I feel that a balance between work and play is crucial for your well-being.

I need time for relaxation and socialising. I like to spend time with my friends. We don't really do much but I feel better. It helps me to be with them.

I have a hobby which takes up a lot of my free time. It takes a lot of dedication to be good at it.



B

Tell the class some of your ideas about free time and recreation (using the comments in A as examples).

C

Read this definition from an online learner dictionary.

recreation *noun* (C or U)

/rek.ri'ei.jən/

Enjoyment

Ways of enjoying yourself when you are not studying or working.

Daniel's only form of recreation seems to be playing on his games console.



D

Work with a partner.

Write a similar definition for one of these nouns.

amusement leisure activity pursuit pastime
interest game hobby relaxation fun

E

Work as a class.

Share your definitions.

Work out some differences in meaning between the items in the list.*

**See last page for suggestions*

- ◆ Which words are near synonyms?
- ◆ Which one's are distinctly different from the others? How?

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B

Leisure activities

A Task preparation.

Work with a partner.
List all of the words and phrases you can in each of these categories.

| <u>Team games</u> | <u>Hobbies</u> | <u>Activities</u> | <u>Interests</u> |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| basketball | photography | reading | dinosaurs |
| ... | ... | ... | ... |

B Exchange your notes with another pair. Add any items you think they missed to their lists.

C Work as a group. Talk about these ideas.

- ◆ Choose five or six items from your lists of interest to at least two members of your group.
- ◆ Say why you chose these activities.
- ◆ Decide where the activities are usually done.
- ◆ Say how much time is required to be good at them and whether it is necessary to be expert at them to enjoy them.

D Report your ideas to the class.

Example

We chose 'dinosaurs'...two of our group are interested in them. They find out information online...in libraries... at museums. It takes time to know a lot about dinosaurs but anyone can be interested...you don't need to be an expert.



E Work with your partner.

Decide which of these words can go with the headings from the lists you made earlier.*

Give examples.

| main | preferred | favourite |
|---------|-------------|------------|
| popular | fashionable | well-liked |

Example

Basketball is one of *the main games* played in schools. It's *the preferred sport* for some teenagers and *our favourite activity*.



F Check your ideas as a class. Talk about these issues.*

- ◆ The relative formality of the words in the list.
- ◆ Contexts in which they might be used.
- ◆ If they are more likely to be written or spoken.

*See last page for collocations.



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Summing up

Today you...

- ◆ read and discussed some comments made by young people about recreation and leisure.
- ◆ explored finer meanings of different words used to talk generally about what people do in their free time.

Homework Idea

- ◆ Start a section in your vocabulary notes and note down new or interesting lexis from today's lesson.



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Answers

Answers from Language review: Answers from page A:

Chennai

diverse neighbourhoods - a leisurely pace -
upmarket boutiques - a real mix - the discerning
traveller (**Adj + n**)

amazingly diverse - enticingly close-up - surprisingly
upmarket (**Adv + Adj**)

Rio de Janeiro

panoramic views - iconic Sugar Loaf Mountain - a
marvellous city - forested hillsides - clear coastal
waters - alluring beaches - globally renowned - truly
marvellous - lushly forested - awe-inspiring
cityscapes (**Adj + n**)

refreshingly clear - superbly alluring - uniquely awe-
inspiring (**Adv + Adj**)

Grand Cayman

Grand Cayman - western Caribbean - expensive
shops – global finances-a different side-maritime
natural wonders (**Adj + n**)

prohibitively expensive-completely different (**Adv +
Adj**)

amusement (U) being entertained or finding
something funny BUT (C) activities you can take
part in e.g. at an amusement park such as
Disneyworld.

leisure (U)- the time you are not working

activity (C)-organised things you can do for leisure
or at school or work

pursuit (U)- something you do which you take quite
seriously

pastime (C)- something you do when not at school
or studying and which you enjoy

interest (C)-something you enjoy studying, an
activity you are enthusiastic about and want to learn
more about

game (C)- an activity or sport which usually has a
set of rules to be followed

hobby (C)- a regular activity or interest carried out
when you're not studying or working

relaxation (U)- activities which make you feel less
stressed and more comfortable

fun (U)-something that gives you enjoyment and
which doesn't involve responsibilities, or is not
particularly serious



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Answers

Answers from page B:

- ◆ main activities / interests
- ◆ preferred team games / activities
- ◆ favourite team games / activities
- ◆ popular team games / hobbies / activities / interests
- ◆ fashionable team games / hobbies / activities / interests
- ◆ well-liked team games / hobbies / activities

Register - *main* and *preferred* seem to have a more formal tone whereas *well-liked*, *popular* and *fashionable* might be construed as more neutral. *Favourite* is probably least formal.

Other useful items include *mainstream*, *trendy*, *all the rage*, etc.



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