

The Staycation

Level

Pre-intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A2–B1 and above)

Comment

This eLesson is about the increasing popularity of holidays at home rather than abroad, and also of camping. The topic uses holiday trends in the UK as a springboard for students to discuss their own preferences and those of their fellow nationals.

How to use the lesson

- 1 Students brainstorm in threes why people like to go on holiday abroad. Elicit an example to start with and put it on the board. If relevant, feed in this information from a recent British survey in relation to travelling abroad: British people like to feel they are getting away from it all by being:
 - a in a different time zone
 - b a long way away from home (by getting on a plane)
 - c in a country with a different language
 - d in a place with different culture and routines
 - e having different sensual experiences in terms of new smells, new sights, and feeling the hotter temperature
 - f away from the everyday household tasks of cooking and cleaning (e.g. in a hotel).

Research also suggests holidays are often used as a time to discuss important matters such as whether to change jobs, or mend or break relationships.

- 2 Write the word 'staycation' on the board and ask students 'What type of holiday do you think this is?' Students complete exercise 1. Take feedback.
- 3 Draw or project an image of a tent and elicit the word and also the place where lots of people put up their tents (*campsite*). If possible, do an image search with the words *tipi* (or *tepee*) and *yurt*, to show these pictures too. Point out the Glossary, then students do the comprehension task (exercise 2). Monitor and assist with any problems in understanding the questions. Students compare answers in pairs before feedback.
- 4 Students complete exercise 3 individually, then check in pairs.
- 5 Students consider the questions in exercise 4 for a few moments. Put students in groups of three and monitor as they are talking, for later feedback on language or ideas. An extra task for early finishers might be: *Describe a really good holiday, giving the following details: when/who with/where/how long/what made it special.*
- 6 Exercise 5 will be more challenging for lower-level learners, but in this case, simply let them read the sentence and then locate the synonym in the text. Higher-level learners can try and predict the missing words, before checking.

If appropriate, also write up these sentences and elicit the missing words, with the text covered: *there were 13% _____ visits than the previous year* and *Is the staycation simply a _____ fashion or a _____ trend.* For lower levels, there are several holiday-related lexical chunks in the text worth highlighting, e.g. *have a holiday; go abroad; go on/for a trip; go camping; go on holiday; use the facilities; summer months; be in the open air; bad/good weather; a holidaymaker; a wide range of (campsites).*

Where appropriate, write up the noun and indicate the number of words which collocate with the noun using a line, e.g. _____ *abroad*, to elicit the answer.

- 7 For students who need further oral fluency practice, do the role play (exercise 6). First pairs brainstorm positive and negative things about camping. You could handle this as a class brainstorm to the board (too), if appropriate. Put students in pairs and assign roles. Provide thinking time. Early finishers swap roles.
- 8 To round off the lesson, choose one of the following tasks: EITHER students write a postcard from a successful or unsuccessful camping holiday (following the role-play) OR students in pairs make a list of their top 15 items to take camping with a very small car (*clothes, tent, crockery* and *food* count as one item each), e.g. mat, torch.

Answer key

1

- 1 A staycation is a holiday at home (home can refer to your actual house or your home country).
- 2 Camping.

2

- | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| Paragraph 1 | f | Paragraph 3 | b | Paragraph 5 | a |
| Paragraph 2 | c | Paragraph 4 | d | | |

3

- 1 They had less money due to the recession and the pound being weak against other currencies; to protect the environment; weather forecasters predicted it would be a very hot summer (but they were wrong!).
- 2 Proper beds; electricity; a log fire; a ready-made tent; your own toilet facilities; a cooker; a fancy tent (tipi or yurt); breakfast prepared for you. (eight reasons)

4 Students' own answers.

5

- a dropped b grown, common c rise

Related websites

The following websites might be useful, for either yourself or your students.

<http://www.femalefirst.co.uk/travel/Britons+ditch+the+Staycation+for+the+Awaycation+in+2010-876.html>.

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/nugget.asp?id=352>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/2009-the-year-of-the-staycation-1663394.html>

<http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/Business/Theme-Parks-See-Business-Grow-As-People-Holiday-At-Home/Article/201003215572378>