

# 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 neighborhoods give you an enticingly close-up flavor 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 traveler.



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 'marvelous 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 neighborhoods*
- ◆ 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 center 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 center 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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## Recreation

# A

# A

**Before you start.**

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

I rarely have 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 socializing. 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	favorite
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 favorite 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 neighborhoods - a leisurely pace - upmarket boutiques - a real mix - the discerning traveler (**Adj + n**)

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

### Rio de Janeiro

panoramic views - iconic Sugar Loaf Mountain - a marvelous city - forested hillsides - clear coastal waters - alluring beaches - globally renowned - truly marvelous - 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 theme park such as Disneyworld.

**leisure** (U) - the time you are not working

**activity** (C) - organized 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
- ◆ favorite 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. *Favorite* is probably least formal.

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



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