

1. What is a *staycation*? Work in pairs and discuss your ideas. Then read the text below and check your answers. Ignore the gaps.

## STAYCATION

A *staycation* is a new word combining the words *stay* and <sup>1</sup> *vacation* to describe taking \_\_\_\_\_ at home or locally, going on day trips to nearby tourist attractions. This has become a popular <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ in the USA and the UK due to the recent economic crisis. The expenses connected with long-distance travel and accommodation <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ are just too high for a lot of families.

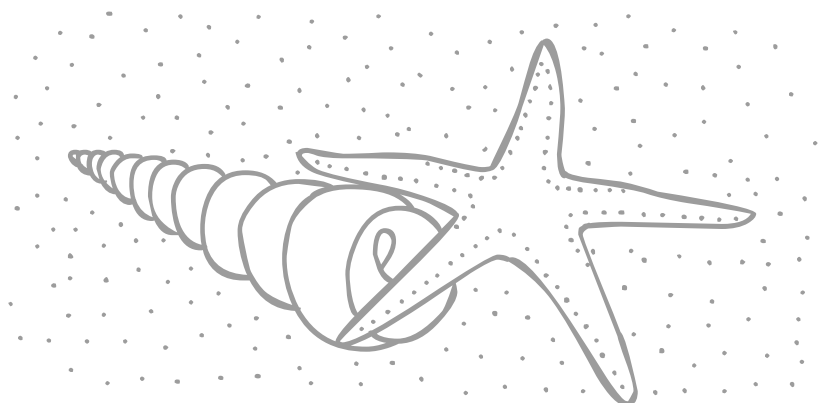
There are also other benefits of a staycation besides saving money. A lot of people find this kind of holiday more <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ as they do not experience the stress of packing or having to find someone to look after their house and pets. There are no long drives or flights. They do not have to deal with annoying co-passengers and other <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ who often ruin one's package holidays.

However, some discover that even though they do not go to school or work, they do not feel relaxed at all, as they spend their holidays running errands or <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ time doing nothing. Therefore, in order to have a great staycation one should follow certain rules: setting start and end dates to make it an official holiday, planning daily outdoor activities, avoiding household chores and documenting the time spent by taking <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and videos.

Another important issue to consider when planning a staycation is that when people go away on holiday, they get a <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ from their relatives, colleagues and neighbours. If they stay at home, though, others feel free to contact or meet them at any time. So probably the best piece of <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to remember is to 'unplug' oneself, i.e. disconnect from the internet and turn off the mobile phone. Then the staycation feels like a real escape from our <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ routine.

2. Read the text above again and complete it with the words in the box.

break      costs      relaxing      holidays      advice  
phenomenon      holidaymakers      waste      daily      photos



1. Work in pairs. Read the ideas for staycation activities and rate each one 1-5 (1 - not interesting, 5 - great), depending on how much you both like it.

| Activities   | Rating    |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Have a picnic.  | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 2. Make a scrapbook of your summer activities.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 3. Build a campfire.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 4. Go for a walk around your town and record the sounds.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 5. Find 10 different plants and learn their names.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 6. Learn the same 10 words in 10 languages.  | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 7. Organize a fun theme party, e.g. pyjama, big hair, zombie party.                              | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 8. Fly a kite.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 9. Map a few places in your town with a GPS, then give the coordinates to a friend to find them. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 10. Print or draw a pattern on a T-shirt.  | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 11. Learn to fold a paper plane and have a paper plane contest.                                  | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 12. Create something from recyclables: cans, newspapers, milk cartons etc.                       | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 13. Learn 5 star constellations you can see in the summer and find them in the sky.              | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 14. Find 5 smartphone applications that could help you have a great staycation.                  | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 15. Have a water balloon fight.  | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 16. Learn 10 different ways of lacing your shoes.  | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 17. Climb a tree.  | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 18. Read a book whose film adaptation you have seen.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 19. Make your own pizza.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 20. Learn how to tie 10 different knots.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 21. Decorate your town by drawing pictures on a pavement with a piece of chalk.                  | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 22. Twirl a hula hoop (or two at once) for as long as you can.                                   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 23. Master 5 yoga positions.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 24. Make giant soap bubbles with a piece of string and a bucket of bubble liquid.                | 1 2 3 4 5 |

2. Think of five more staycation ideas. Exchange them with another pair. Rate their ideas. Explain your opinions.

|    |           |
|----|-----------|
| 1. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 2. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 3. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 4. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 5. | 1 2 3 4 5 |