

# Staycations

## Pre-Reading

### A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Did your country experience a recession from 2007 to 2010?
2. What is a "staycation" or a "holistay"?
3. What would you do with a week off at home?
4. Do you find vacations stressful?



### B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. recession           | a) to commit to a scheduled plan, to reserve                        |
| ___ 2. coin                | b) to find a way to have fun or pass the time                       |
| ___ 3. afford              | c) a period of job loss and economic trouble                        |
| ___ 4. out of the question | d) a sudden increase in economic wealth or financial growth         |
| ___ 5. amuse oneself       | e) to invent (a new word or expression)                             |
| ___ 6. swap                | f) in no way possible   |
| ___ 7. stressful           | g) to do something that you had fallen behind on                    |
| ___ 8. catch up on         | h) to exchange one for another                                      |
| ___ 9. tempted             | i) to have enough money to do or buy something                      |
| ___ 10. boom               | j) causing anxiety and tension                                      |
| ___ 11. book               | k) attracted to something (often something we know we shouldn't do) |

## Reading

### STAYCATIONS

*No need to pack your bags!*

1. The **recession** of 2007–2010 called for the **coining** of a new word: “staycations.” This word became so popular that it was added to various dictionaries. In the UK, the words “stolidays” and “holistays” became popular. Why these new words? Nobody could **afford** to travel! Expensive holidays are **out of the question** during economic downturns. Does this mean people work for 52 weeks straight? No. Most people still have to take holiday time. In fact, during a recession, some people have to take extra days off with no pay. Instead of going abroad, families that are on a budget find ways to **amuse themselves** close to home.
2. A staycation can be anything from camping at a local campground to **swapping** homes with a neighbor. Having pool parties and backyard BBQs can also be a holistay. Do you ever feel like you need a vacation after your holidays? The thought of *getting away* sometimes sounds better than it is. Traveling can be both **stressful** and expensive. People who stay at home during a holiday break get the rest they need. They **catch up on** their sleep and work on home improvements. They also make time for friends, family, and themselves.
3. Not everyone is capable of enjoying a holiday at home. Some people become **tempted** by email or work. Others feel lazy or alone. Do you have what it takes to enjoy a staycation? Perhaps your country is experiencing a **boom**. If so, you may already be **booking** a holiday cruise!

## Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs and write the answers below.

1. Why does the reading mention the time period of 2007–2010?

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2. What three words are used to make up *staycations*, *holistays*, and *stolidays*?

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3. What is out of the question for most people during economic downturns?

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4. Name two benefits of staycations that are mentioned in the reading.

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5. Why are some people not suited to a staycation?

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# Vocabulary Review

## A. Complete the Sentences

Which word from page 1 is described in the sentence?

1. Recessions are \_\_\_\_\_ because nobody knows when they will come to an end.
2. We cannot \_\_\_\_\_ to go on our usual summer vacation this year.  
We're going camping instead.
3. This staycation will allow me to \_\_\_\_\_ my reading.  
I have a pile of books that I want to read.
4. Going on a honeymoon is \_\_\_\_\_. We can barely afford the wedding.
5. The housing \_\_\_\_\_ is great for realtors and homeowners.  
Now is the time to sell your home!

## B. Matching

Match each sentence to the correct phrase on the right.

- |          |   |                              |
|----------|---|------------------------------|
| _____ 1. | The children had fun playing with a caterpillar in the grass.         | a) They swapped.             |
| _____ 2. | We are going to buy our tickets for Disneyland this week.             | b) It's out of the question. |
| _____ 3. | Many people in the car industry lost their jobs this summer.          | c) There was a recession.    |
| _____ 4. | Yumi gave Tina her long coat in exchange for a pair of boots.         | d) We're booking it.         |
| _____ 5. | There is no way that you are going out tonight. You failed your exam! | e) They amused themselves.   |

## Discussion

1. Describe the most expensive holiday you have ever been on.
2. What is the best holiday you've ever been on? Is it the same as #1?
3. Why do people need to take holidays from work?
4. What is your idea of a perfect staycation?

## Class Opinion

Walk around the class and ask your classmates questions. Write their answers in the chart below.

<b>Staycations</b>		<b>Vacations</b>	
<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>	<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>

## Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

### STAYCATIONS

*No need to pack your bags!*

1. The recession of 2007–2010 called for the coining of a new word: “staycations!.” This word became so \_\_\_\_\_ that it was added to various dictionaries. In the UK, the words “stolidays” and “holistays” became popular. Why these new words? Nobody could afford to travel! Expensive holidays are out of the question during economic downturns. Does this mean people work for 52 weeks \_\_\_\_\_? No. Most people still have to take holiday time. In fact, during a recession, some people have to take extra days off with no pay. In fact, during a recession, some people have to take extra days off with no pay. \_\_\_\_\_ going abroad, families that are on a budget find ways to amuse themselves close to home.
2. A staycation can be anything from camping at a local campground to swapping homes with a neighbor. Having pool parties and backyard BBQs can also be a holistay. Do you ever feel like you need a vacation after your holidays? The thought of \_\_\_\_\_ sometimes sounds better than it is. Traveling can be both stressful and expensive. People who stay at home during a holiday break get the rest they need. They catch up on their sleep and work on home \_\_\_\_\_. They also make time for friends, family, and themselves.
3. Not everyone is capable of enjoying a holiday at home. Some people become tempted by email or work. Others feel lazy or alone. Do you have what it takes to enjoy a staycation? \_\_\_\_\_ your country is experiencing a boom. If so, you may already be booking a holiday \_\_\_\_\_!

# Answer Key

**LESSON DESCRIPTION:**

This lesson features a reading about holidays at home. Learn where the name “staycations” came from and discuss the idea of a perfect staycation. An optional class survey is included.

**TEACHING TIPS:**

See *Discussion Starters Teaching Guide* (<https://esllibrary.com/courses/72/lessons/>) for a variety of ways to use the reading.

**LEVEL:** Int

**TIME:** 1.5–2 hours

**TAGS:** discussion, holiday, staycation, leisure, activities, opinion

## Pre-Reading

**A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS**

Answers will vary.

Have students work in small groups or as a class.

**B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW**

- |      |      |      |      |       |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 1. c | 3. i | 5. b | 7. j | 9. k  | 11. a |
| 2. e | 4. f | 6. h | 8. g | 10. d |       |

## Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 6. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

## Comprehension

- The reading mentions the time period of 2007–2010 because this is when the word “staycation” was coined.
- The three words are vacation, holiday, and stay.
- Going on an expensive holiday is out of the question for most people during economic downturns.
- Benefits of staycations mentioned in the reading include feeling rested, spending less money, having time to catch up on projects at home, and having more time to spend with friends and family.
- Some people are not suited to a staycation because they can’t leave their work alone. If they are at home they will be tempted to check email or answer the phones. Others may feel lonely or lazy.

## Vocabulary Review

**A. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES**

- |                |                        |
|----------------|------------------------|
| 1. stressful   | 4. out of the question |
| 2. afford      | 5. boom                |
| 3. catch up on |                        |

**B. MATCHING**

- |      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1. e | 2. d | 3. c | 4. a | 5. b |
|------|------|------|------|------|

## Discussion

Answers will vary.

Can be done individually or in small groups or pairs.

## Class Opinion

Have your students walk around and survey their classmates.

## Listening

- popular, straight, Instead of
- getting away, improvements
- Perhaps, cruise

**SPELLING NOTE:**

This lesson shows the American spelling of the words *Neighbor* and *Traveling*. Most other English-speaking countries spell these words this way: *Neighbour* and *Travelling*. Make it a challenge for your students to find these words in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spellings.