

Teaching English lesson

Staycations

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Lead-in: Read the definition of ‘staycation’ from Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia. Can you explain what it is in your own words?

A **staycation** (a mix of ‘stay’ and ‘vacation’) is ‘a period in which an individual or family stays home and participates in leisure activities within day trip distance of their home and does not require overnight accommodation. In the UK, the term has increasingly come to refer to domestic tourism: taking a holiday in one's own country as opposed to traveling abroad, as well as to staying home and participating in leisure activities within day trip distance of home and not requiring overnight accommodation.’

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Staycation>

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Task 1: Ask your classmates questions and complete the table.

Find someone who...	Name	Why?
...has stayed at home for their holiday (sleeping at home).		
...would never stay at home for their holiday (sleeping at home).		
...has had a holiday in a different part of their country.		
...has had a holiday in a different country.		
...would love to have a holiday in a different country.		

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Task 2: Write some reasons why people have these kinds of holidays.

Holidays at home (i.e. sleeping at home and doing day trips)	Domestic holidays (i.e. holidays in a different part of your country)	Holidays abroad (i.e. in a different country)

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Task 3A: Some British people were asked: Are you having a staycation this year? Quickly scan the responses. Who is having a staycation this year?

Matthew: ‘Well, kind of. I usually have a big holiday abroad every year, but this year I can’t afford it as my mortgage has just gone up. My friend’s getting married in Wales next month though, so I’ll have a little break then. It’ll be great to catch up with my old mates.’

Amy: ‘I’ve heard a lot about staycations but I’m going on holiday like I do every year. I always go to Spain for a week. You just can’t trust the British weather and I need at least a week of sunshine every year! I love the food out there too!’

Aisha: ‘My mum’s been quite ill this year, and I’ve been helping her a lot. She’s a lot better now but I’d still rather stay local just in case. To be honest, the kids won’t care. They’ll be happy playing in the garden and going to the park. And I have to admit, it’ll be a lot less stressful than travelling with the little ones!’

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Task 3A: Some British people were asked: Are you having a staycation this year? Quickly scan the responses. Who is having a staycation this year?

Jasmine: 'I usually go abroad but I'm staying in the UK this year. I've decided not to fly so much because I want to help the environment. It's crazy that everyone is flying around the world when there are beautiful places to visit here in our own country. I'm going to Cornwall for a fortnight.'

Iain: 'Am I going on a staycation?! What a lot of rubbish! People are still going abroad. In fact, it's cheaper to get a flight and leave Britain than to stay here for your holidays. Everything here is so expensive, especially in London where I live. I'm going to get a cheap flight somewhere and have some fun!'

Ryan: 'Yeah, we're staying at home this year. We've just moved house, so I want to spend my holiday getting organised, painting, decorating etc. We've also got the dogs to think about. We'll probably do some day trips – I've just heard about a castle nearby that I'd love to visit.'

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Task 3B: Read the responses again and complete the table.

Name	What kind of holiday?	Why
Matthew		
Amy		
Aisha		
Jasmine		
Iain		
Ryan		

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Task 3B: Answers.

Name	What kind of holiday?	Why
Matthew	domestic (Wales)	<i>can't afford to go abroad / going to a friend's wedding</i>
Amy	abroad (Spain)	<i>better weather / loves the food</i>
Aisha	at home	<i>wants to be near mum as has been ill / kids don't care / less stressful</i>
Jasmine	domestic (Cornwall)	<i>better for the environment / wants to explore more of UK</i>
Iain	abroad	<i>cheaper to go abroad / expensive in London / travelling is fun</i>
Ryan	at home	<i>has things to do at home (just moved house) / has dogs / wants to explore local attractions</i>

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Task 3C: Discuss these questions.

- Do you identify with any of the responses?
- Are you surprised by any of the responses?
- Do you think people might respond in similar ways in your country?

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Thanks for attending the lesson