

Read the text.

Imagine you are walking down Oxford Street, a popular London shopping district, and you see a strangely dressed person. Do you call him an anorak? Probably not! Unless, of course, you are British.

In Britain, 'anorak' is slang for a person wearing unfashionable clothes, a boring person, or a person with a boring hobby. But where does the term come from? You'll never guess! It comes from trainspotters, because trainspotters usually wear anoraks (rain jackets with hoods) and most people think trainspotting is a boring hobby. Trainspotters spend hours on train platforms, collecting information about trains. Their anoraks protect them from the weather and they keep sandwiches and flasks of tea in the pockets. That way, they don't need to take a lunch break, and they don't miss any of the trains. How did this strange hobby start? After World War II, many British children liked to watch trains and write down their serial numbers and descriptions. In those days it was a game, but today's trainspotters are adults. There are even trainspotter clubs, usually in station cafeterias. Trainspotters often meet there and exchange information about trains with other trainspotters.

When people meet trainspotters, they sometimes ask, "Why have you got such a strange hobby?" In reply, some trainspotters answer, "Aren't football fans just as strange? They wear identical scarves and spend hours and hours in football stadiums." Do you agree?

GLOSSARY call - anomenar • unless - llevat que • slang - argot • break - descans • just as - igual de

Answer the questions.

1. What does 'anorak' mean in British slang?
2. What information do trainspotters collect?
3. When did the hobby of trainspotting start?
4. Where do trainspotter clubs usually meet?
5. What do trainspotters think about football fans?

Tick the sentences true (T) or false (F).

T F

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| 1. Only people from Oxford call boring people 'anoraks'. | | |
| 2. Trainspotters usually wear anoraks | | |
| 3. Today's trainspotters are mainly children. | | |
| 4. Trainspotter clubs usually meet in expensive restaurants. | | |
| 5. Trainspotters like to talk about trains with other trainspotters. | | |

Then correct the false sentences.

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Circle the correct definition.

1. 'Unfashionable' means
- a. popular b. not very trendy c. not veer elegant
2. A 'boring person / hobby' is
- a. interesting b. not interesting c. unusual
3. A trainspotter a. likes to watch trains
- b. steals things from people on trains c. likes to travel on trains
4. A 'pocket' is a
- Bag place to carte things in your clothes purse
5. 'Exchange' means ...
- a. sell. b. Collect c. give something and get something in return.

MINI PROJECT: Write about a hobby of yours or of someone you know.

