

LEARNING VACATIONS

Words

Look for the following words as you read the passage. Match each word with its correct definition.

Words

1. acquire
2. breeze
3. broad
4. budget
5. colorful¹
6. content
7. costly
8. cuisine
9. economical
10. endeavor²
11. enroll
12. hone
13. ingredient
14. ongoing
15. residential
16. resort
17. sponsor
18. supervision
19. survey
20. taste

Definitions

- A. n., a vacation place
- B. n., style of cooking
- C. n., direction, assistance
- D. adj., interesting and unusual
- E. n., preference
- F. v., to learn something or get something
- G. n., subject matter
- H. adj., with living accommodations, related to housing
- I. n., light wind
- J. adj., inexpensive
- K. adj., wide or large
- L. n., activity with a specific purpose, effort
- M. v., to sign up for a class
- N. n., a study of opinions in a sample of the population
- O. n., a plan for spending money
- P. n., an item in a recipe
- Q. adj., continuing
- R. adj., expensive
- S. v., to organize and be responsible for
- T. v., to sharpen, improve

¹BrE: colourful

²BrE: endeavour

Reading

Learning Vacations

A couple spends a week in Thailand learning to cook in the local style. A group flies to Turkey to join an **ongoing** archeological¹ dig for the summer. A history professor leads a tour of historical sites of Europe.

The participants in these trips are all enjoying a different kind of travel: learning vacations². Rather than spending their vacations relaxing on a beach or taking a bus³ tour of ten cities in eight days, they have opted to enjoy their time off by learning something new. From attending summer camps for adults to studying botany in the rain forest, people everywhere are experiencing the value of a vacation with a purpose. According to **surveys**, close to one-third of travelers⁴ each year choose learning programs over other types of vacations, and their numbers are growing.

In the past, these types of vacations were generally considered to be for young people still in school. A student of French might spend the summer studying that language in Paris. A marine biology major could learn to scuba dive and spend a few months at sea assisting researchers. Now, it has become common for adults, too, to spend their vacation time in educational **endeavors**, and various types of travel programs⁵ have grown up around this interest.

Art schools and writing programs **sponsor** trips to interesting parts of the world. Trip participants **hone** their creative skills under the **supervision** of professional artists and writers while at the same time enjoying, for example, the warm **breezes** of the Caribbean islands or the **colorful** villages of Spain. Cooking is a popular hobby, and tour companies have developed trips that focus on the **cuisine** of different regions of the world. Travelers may learn all about how traditional meals are prepared and what **ingredients** are used. Or, for those who want to improve their abilities in the kitchen, they may actually receive hands-on lessons, **acquiring** new skills that they can take home with them. Travelers to Britain can **enroll** in courses at any of the twenty-plus adult **residential** colleges around the country. The courses at these schools generally last just a few days and range in **content** from activities such as photography and dancing to more serious subjects such as history, philosophy, and literature.

¹BrE: archaeological

²BrE: holidays

³BrE: coach

⁴BrE: travellers

⁵BrE: programmes

These are just a few examples of the many types of learning vacations that people enjoy every year. In addition to gaining knowledge and skills, another advantage of these types of vacations is that they can be more **economical** than traditional vacations. Camping out near an archeological site or sleeping in a college dormitory or youth hostel certainly costs less than staying at a luxury hotel or vacation **resort**. And the fact that many of these trips can be organized⁶ by the travelers themselves without the services of a tour company or travel agency makes them even more **economical**. Of course, it all depends on the type of trip one chooses, and some companies offer learning vacations to exotic locales with expert professionals that are quite **costly**. With the **broad** range of possibilities available, there are options to suit all **tastes** and **budgets**.

Answer the questions about **Learning Vacations**.

Questions 1–3 **1.** **2.** **3.**

Which of the following types of learning vacations are mentioned in the passage? Choose **three** answers from the list below.

- A** Honing cooking skills
- B** Working on artistic endeavors
- C** Enrolling in an archeology course
- D** Studying the Spanish language
- E** Taking classes at a residential college
- F** Acquiring knowledge about Thailand's history

⁶BrE: organised

Questions 4–7

Do the following statements agree with the information in the reading passage?

Write

- TRUE** if the statement agrees with the information.
FALSE if the statement contradicts the information.
NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this in the passage.

- _____ 4. Most participants in learning vacations are young people.
- _____ 5. Surveys show that around 30 percent of travelers take learning vacations.
- _____ 6. It is common for colleges to sponsor learning vacations.
- _____ 7. Learning vacations are generally less costly than resort vacations.

My Words

Write the words that are new to you. Look them up in the dictionary and write their definitions.

Words

Definitions

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
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