DIGITAL NOMAD FAMILIES

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Expemo code:
1B68-F448-SS93

1 Warm up

In pairs, discuss the following questions.

1. What is the meaning of the noun 'nomad'?
2. What is the adjective of this noun?
3. Which people from modern life or history would you describe with this adjective?
4. Would you be able to live that kind of life? Why/why not?

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2 Focus on vocabulary

Part A: Look at the words in bold in the article on page four. Match the following definitions to the words. There are more words than definitions.

1.	class	a.	have a strong desire for something
2.	crave	b.	go into a new situation without knowing what it will be like
3.	critic	c.	having a lot of experience with, or knowledge about, a particular situation
4.	detrimental	d.	decide that something belongs to a particular group
5.	innate	e.	make something ordinary and not unusual
6.	normalise	f.	a person who gives their negative or positive opinion about something
7.	venture	g.	*X (not needed)*
8.	well versed	h.	being part of you since you were born
9.	vice versa	i.	causing harm or damage to something

What's the meaning of the word you did not use?

a. involving Illegal activity

b. the opposite of/different order to what was just said

c. in a way that involves poems and writing

Now write down whether each of the words is a verb, an adverb, an adjective, or a noun.

verbs	adverbs	adjectives	nouns

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Part B: Now complete the gaps in the following questions with the vocabulary from Part A. You may have to change the form of the word.

1. When you're really hungry, what kind of food do you usually _____?
2. What activities do you do, or food do you eat, that is _____ to your health?
3. What _____ skills do you have?
4. Before you go and see a film, do you usually read what the _____ say about it first? Why/why not?
5. What subjects do you think that you are quite _____ in?
6. What activities that were not common 20 years ago in your country have become _____ since then?
7. When was the last time you _____ into a new place or country? What did you think of it?
8. Would you _____ your best friend as more or less intelligent than you? Why?

Now in pairs, answer the questions.

3 Skimming for details

Quickly read through the article on page 4 and write down the meaning of the following numbers.

a. 10.9: _____
b. 49: _____
c. 1,400: _____
d. 54: _____
e. 8: _____
f. 17: _____

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On the road again

The rise of the digital nomad

A. Remote working has ballooned in recent years, with research in 2020 finding that 10.9 million Americans **classed** themselves as digital nomads, an increase of 49% in the previous year. It used to be that the stereotype of the digital nomad was a 20-something enjoying the view of the beach from behind their laptop, or reclining on a coffee shop sofa with various electronics in the process of charging. However, with the rise in remote working jobs and families having become **well versed** in the art of balancing their children's education with their own work demands due to the pandemic, more families are now choosing to take to the road. In a survey of 1,400 people across 67 nationalities, 54% identified themselves as being able to work anywhere and a surprising 70% were parents who took their children with them.

B. Sarah Hawley founded the website Growmotely which matches professionals who want to work remotely to employers who need them. She and her husband, Joe, both had a great love of travel before their son Luka was born. They spend around two months at a time travelling the US in their camper van and in August they will head for Sarah's native Australia as well as Bali in Indonesia. They hope that by travelling, Luka will develop a cross-cultural understanding of the world and see that there are various approaches to how things are done, as well as giving him an **innate** sense of curiosity about the world.

C. Another nomadic family are Joel and Jenna Young and their three boys all aged between eight and 14. They both grew up in rural Ohio with few opportunities for travel, with Joel not **venturing** on to a plane until the age of 17. They now spend up to six months each year touring in their motorhome with the intention of giving their boys experiences that they didn't have growing up. They hope it will increase cultural awareness and give them an enhanced learning experience. 'We want our kids to have the benefit of seeing it all ... it just leads to a better level of decision making, says Joel of the family's travel.

D. **Critics**, however, warn of the negatives of this lifestyle choice. Dr Jody LeVos, a Child Development expert points out that it removes the comfort of routine and the wider support network from the child's life, potentially having a **detrimental** effect on the child. She warns that if their social circle, physical environment and the time zones they find themselves in are constantly changing, children can lose a sense of familiarity which they **crave**. There's also the risk that unless they have a dedicated family member or tutor to structure their education, they are at risk of falling behind students attending school.

E. Sarah Hawley is aware of these risks and employs a nanny who often travels with them to home-school Luka. When this isn't possible, she will work while Joe looks after their son and **vice versa**. As far as possible, they try and stick to a familiar routine even as they travel around and will go to bed at the same time regardless of location. They also have a community of friends who travel too and they try to stay close to them adding to the sense of a constant social circle. As more people reassess what they want from work and education, it's likely we will see even more families take to the road and a more nomadic lifestyle will become increasingly **normalised**.

Sources: BBC, GOGOPlaces, our3kidsvtheworld

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4 Reading comprehension

Read the following statements and decide if they are true (T), false (F) or not given (NG).

1. According to the article, the experiences some families had during the Covid-19 pandemic gave them greater confidence to become digital nomads. _____
2. Sarah Hawley is an American. _____
3. The Young family live in Ohio. _____
4. Dr LeVos thinks children benefit from having neighbours, grandparents and other family in their life. _____
5. Dr LeVos thinks that children who travel as part of a digital nomad family need someone to take charge of their education so that they don't miss out on what other children are learning. _____
6. The writer of the article thinks that the number of digital nomad families will decrease in future. _____

5 Vocabulary in context

Look at the following sentences. Replace the highlighted words with the vocabulary from the box.

realistic / landscape / surprisingly / as far as I'm concerned
embarked / beyond / tarantulas / blown away

1. Seth, my youngest, didn't have any interest in anything **other than** gaming.
2. We **started off** on a three-month trip across California, Arizona and Utah.
3. They were fascinated by the cacti we saw and they spent hours looking for **large spiders**.
4. They were also **amazed** by the stars
5. I don't think it's **practical** at all.
6. You can keep your travelling experience **in my opinion**.
7. We saw such a beautiful **view** yesterday!
8. She's **amazingly** good.

Listen to three people talking about travelling with their families and check your answers.

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6 Listening comprehension

Read the following statements and decide if that information is given (G) or not given (NG). Listen again to check.

1. Speaker 1's sons didn't want to go travelling on the first trip. _____
2. Speaker 1 has been on three trips since the first one. _____
3. Speaker 2 has a job. _____
4. Speaker 2 doesn't like the idea of working and being with her children at the same time. _____
5. Speaker 3 is an English teacher. _____
6. Speaker 3 has a child who can speak in more than one language. _____

7 Talking point

In pairs, discuss the following questions.

1. Which of the speakers from the listening exercise do you agree with most? Why?
2. If you could travel with your family, where would you want to go? Why?
3. Would you have wanted to travel with your family when you were a child? Why/why not?

8 Extended activity/Homework

Read the question.

> Parents travelling with their children for long periods of time is harmful for their development. You can't replace school with travelling around from place to place as school involves learning a wide range of subjects, not just what is in front of them.

To what extent do you agree with the above statement?

You should:

- Write at least 250 words.
- Check your grammar, spelling and punctuation.

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