

A GAP YEAR

1

Warm up

Lots of young people take a gap year before they go to university, or even while they are studying. Match the things that they often do on a gap year with the reasons for doing them.

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| 1. volunteer for a charity | a. so I can buy a car |
| 2. volunteer with children | b. so I can go travelling |
| 3. travel alone | c. to become more independent |
| 4. travel with a friend | d. to get experience |
| 5. learn a language | e. to help animals |
| 6. learn how to drive | f. to make money |
| 7. do an unpaid work placement or internship | g. to share the adventure |
| 8. get a job | h. to teach them new skills |

Answer these questions

1. Are gap years common in your country?
2. What are the benefits of taking a gap year?
3. Have you done a gap year, or do you want to do one?

2

Listening

Cousins Sophie and Neil are talking at a family party. Listen to their conversation and decide if the sentences are true or false.



1. Sophie is planning to help an animal charity.
2. Sophie wants to buy a car.
3. Sophie is hoping to do a work placement.
4. Neil has plans to travel with a friend.
5. Neil wants to get a job.
6. Neil is planning to learn Portuguese.

Listen again and choose the words that you hear to complete the sentences.

1. ... I **have studied** / I'm **studying** biology at the moment.
2. So, I'm **going to take** / I'll **take** a year off university to find out more about that kind of work.
3. I'll **start** / I'm **starting** there next week.
4. If I get the place, I'm **going to go** / **going** with the vets on their farm visits.
5. **We're going to** / **We'll** save all our money until we have enough for the trip.
6. ... **we're leaving** / ... **we leave** sometime in the new year.
7. I'm **studying** / **going to study** politics at university.
8. Now, I can see some food on the table, so it looks like **we're going to eat** / **we'll eat**.

4

Practice

Use the correct form of the verb in brackets to complete these sentences. You can use present simple, present continuous, *be going to + verb* or *will + verb*. Be ready to explain your choice.

1. I _____ someone about a job on Friday. (see)
2. I think you _____ working with children. (enjoy)
3. If you want to speak to John, you'll have to go outside. He _____ the car. (clean)
4. Look at those big clouds over there. It _____ (rain)
5. She _____ how to surf. It's something she's always wanted to do. (learn)
6. The bus _____ at 8:30, so hurry up! (leave)
7. They _____ a dog but they haven't decided what kind yet. (get)
8. We _____ coffee with our best friends tomorrow. (have)