Hello!

Welcome to Opportunities for Serendipity English Course!



No time for anything

1 Reading & Vocabulary: time expressions

a Read the article and match the headings to the paragraphs.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

SERENDIPITY
ENGLISH, THE MOST FORTUNATE DISCOVERY

OPPORTUNITIES English!

We're living faster, but are we living better?

1

People in cities around the world walk 10% more quickly than they did twenty years ago. Singapore, a world business centre, is top of the list for fast walkers.

2

In the USA there is a book called One-Minute Bedtime Stories for children. These are shorter versions of traditional stories, especially written for busy parents who need to save time.

3

People aren't as patient as they were in the past. If the lift takes more than 15 seconds to arrive, people get very impatient because they think they're wasting time. It's exactly the same when an internet page does not open immediately.

4

Written communication on the internet is getting shorter and shorter and using more and more abbreviations, like BFN (bye for now) or NP (no problem). Twitter only allows you to use 140 characters, and now a new social networking site has a limit of just ten words.

5

Even in our free time we do things in a hurry. Twenty years ago when people went to art galleries they spent ten seconds looking at each picture. Today they spend much less time –just three seconds!

6

Our cars are faster, but the traffic is worse, so we drive more slowly. The average speed of cars in New York City is 15 km/h. We spend more time than ever sitting in our cars, feeling stressed because we aren't going to arrive on time.

- [ ] **No time** for Snow White
- [ ] **No time** to write
- [ ] **No time** to wait
- [ ] **More time** on the road
- [ ] **No time** for Van Gogh
- [ ] **No time** to stop

LIVEWORKSHEETS

b Look at the highlighted time expressions and guess their meaning.

c Have you noticed any of these things happening where you live?

d Look at the questionnaire about living faster. Answer the questions with *often*, *sometimes*, or *never* and give more information.

Questionnaire:

How fast is your life?

1 Do people tell you that you talk too quickly?

2 Do you get impatient when other people are talking?

3 Are you the first person to finish at mealtimes?

4 When you are walking along a street, do you feel frustrated when you are behind people who are walking more slowly?

5 Do you get irritable if you sit for an hour without doing anything, e.g. waiting for the doctor?

6 Do you walk out of shops and restaurants if there is a queue?

2 Grammar; comparative adjectives and adverbs, as...as

a Look at the following words from the text. Are they adjectives, adverbs, or both?

quickly	fast	busy	patient	bad	slowly	stressed

LIVEWORKSHEETS

b Choose the right form. Tick if both are correct.

1. Life is *faster / more fast* than before.
2. Traffic in cities is *more bad / worse* than it was.
3. Everybody is *busyer / busier* than they were five years ago.
4. We are *more stressed / stresseder* than our grandparents were.
5. We do everything *more quickly / faster*.
6. People aren't *as patient as / as patient than* they were before.

1 My brother's **older than** me.
It's **more dangerous** to cycle **than** to drive.
2 People walk **more quickly than** in the past.
3 I'm **less relaxed** this year **than** I was last year.
4 The service in this restaurant isn't **as good as** it was.
She doesn't drive **as fast as** her brother.

- To compare two people, places, things, or actions use:

1 comparative adjectives.
2 comparative adverbs (for actions).
3 *less* + adjective or adverb.
4 (*not*) *as* + adjective / adverb + *as*.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

SERENDIPITY
ENGLISH, THE MOST FORTUNATE DISCOVERY

OPPORTUNITIES English!

comparative adjectives: regular

adjective	comparative	
short	shorter	one syllable: add *-er*
big	bigger	one vowel + one consonant: double final consonant
busy	busier	consonant + y: *y* + *-ier*
relaxed	**more** relaxed	two or more syllables: *more* + adjective

comparative adjectives: irregular

adjective	comparative
good	**better**
bad	**worse**
far	**further**

comparative adverbs: regular

quickly	**more** quickly
slowly	**more** slowly

comparative adverbs: irregular

hard	**harder**
well	**better**
badly	**worse**

! Comparatives with pronouns
After comparative + *than* or *as…as* we use an object pronoun (*me*, *her*, etc.) or a subject pronoun + auxiliary verb, e.g.
*My brother's taller than **me**. My brother's taller than **I am**.*
*He's not as intelligent as **her**. He's not as intelligent as **she is**.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 Pronunciation; sentence stress



Remember; -er, and unstressed words like a, as, and than have the /ə/ sound.

a Listen and repeat the sentences. Copy the rhythm and try to get the /ə/ sound right.
2.41

I'm **busier** than a **year** ago.

My **life** is **more** **stressful** than in the **past**.

I **work** **harder** than **before**.

I **walk** and **talk** **faster**.

I'm **not** as **relaxed** as I **was** a **few** **years** **ago**.

b Are any of these sentences true for you?

4 Speaking

Think about how your life has changed over the last 3-5 years. Read the questions below and think about your answers.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

SERENDIPITY
ENGLISH, THE MOST FORTUNATE DISCOVERY

OPPORTUNITIES English!

1 Do you spend more or less time on these things? Say why.

Speaking



working or studying	sleeping
getting to work / school	cooking
sitting in traffic	shopping
talking to friends	eating
meeting friends	using your phone
being online	using your computer

Speaking



2 Do you have more or less free time? Why?

3 What don't you have time for nowadays? What would you like to have more time for?

Speaking



LIVEWORKSHEETS

SERENDIPITY
ENGLISH, THE MOST FORTUNATE DISCOVERY

OPPORTUNITIES English!

5 Listening; expert advice

a You are going to listen to an expert talking about how to live your life more slowly. Look at her five main tips (=good ideas). Guess what the missing words are and write one example for each tip.
2.42

1. Whatever you are doing, just try to …… and enjoy it.

Example; ……...

2. Make a list of three things which are …… for you.

Example; ……...

3. Don't try to do …… at the same time.

Example; ……...

4. Sit down and do…… for half an hour every day.

Example; ……...

5. Be near ……

Example; ……...

b Are there any tips that you think you might use? Why (not)?



LIVEWORKSHEETS