

An Unexpected Hobby

About this time last year, my manager said: "You look exhausted, Alex. Why don't you take a vacation?" It was true that I had been working very hard, and when I looked in the mirror, I could see what she meant. The skin around my eyes was so dark that I looked like a panda. I hadn't slept properly for weeks.

I decided to go on a skiing trip with some friends. I thought the exercise and mountain air would be good for me. On the way, I looked out of the window of the plane at the snow sparkling like diamonds on the mountains below. Before long, I was feeling more relaxed than I had in months, and I couldn't wait to get my skis on.

However, when we eventually arrived at the resort, we had a huge shock. "I'm sorry," the receptionist at our hotel said, "but the only snow is at the top of the mountain. And I'm afraid the ski lifts are closed because of strong winds." Lying in bed that night, I could feel my disappointment, like a black cloud over my head.

At first, I was sure the vacation would be a disaster. However, the following morning I noticed a sign in the hotel advertising salsa classes. I was nervous because I'd never danced before, but when I anxiously opened the door, the teacher called, "Come on in, you'll love it!" In a matter of minutes, I'd learned some basic steps, and the loud rhythm of the music immediately made me feel more cheerful.

After that, I went back every day, even after it snowed more, and I was able to go skiing. As time went on, I realized I had found an activity I absolutely loved. When I got home, I found a local class, and I've been dancing salsa twice a week ever since.



Task 1. Choose if the sentences below are True, False, or not mentioned in the text.

1. Alex decided to go on a skiing trip because he thought the exercise and mountain air would be good for him.
a) true b) false c) aren't mentioned
2. He was excited about going skiing.
a) true b) false c) aren't mentioned
3. He was surprised to discover that he wouldn't be able to ski.
a) true b) false c) aren't mentioned
4. He knew he would enjoy salsa dancing.
a) true b) false c) aren't mentioned
5. Salsa dancing became his full-time job.
a) true b) false c) aren't mentioned

Task 2. Complete the sentences (1-3) and answer the questions (4-10)

- 1) Before _____, I was feeling more relaxed than I had in months, and I couldn't wait to get my skis on.
- 2) On the way, I looked out of the _____ of the plane at the snow sparkling like diamonds on the mountains below.
- 3) In a matter of minutes, I'd learned some basic steps, and the _____ of the music immediately made me feel more cheerful.
- 4) How did I open the door to salsa classroom? _____
- 5) Who said that the ski lift is closed? _____
- 6) Who decided to go on a ski trip with some friends? _____
- 7) What did my manager say about the vacation? _____
- 8) What animal did I look like? _____
- 9) When did the manager say this? _____
- 10) Who was the manager? _____