

- A. If you don't know the language, you may find local people unfriendly, impolite and strange.
- B. And, if you try to travel cheaply, like hitchhiking, you might find yourself in dangerous situations.
- C. You can experience new cultures and have a break from everyday life.
- D. Although you can generally profit from visiting new countries, there are also some negative things you should think of it.
- E. Making friends with people from all over the world is great!
- F. The inhospitable locals can cause you unpleasant moments.

by B. Traveller

4 November, 3:44 p.m.

See the world?

People sometimes believe that they haven't really had a proper holiday unless they have spent it somewhere far away- in Thailand, Bali or other remote places.

1.

First of all, you may find that the food is disgusting and yucky,

2.

Of course, trips abroad cost a lot as well.

3.

However, the benefits of travelling outweigh the negative side.

4.

This can be absolutely relaxing and broadens your horizon, as you can see many unusual places. The memories will stay with you all your life.

5.

Despite the fact that they are not all positive, the experiences you have while travelling will help you become more mature. In my opinion seeing the world before you settle down is therefore absolutely necessary.

2. Use the words in the correct places

agree disagree dreams for free insecure general judgement judged in lack
moving move out opposing unbelievable up waste

by Frank022

13 December, 7:01 p.m.

In response to RelaxedGirl's post I can only say that I couldn't _____ more.

She claims that surfing the net for hours is a _____ of time, that we should give that _____ and start living now. RelaxedGirl's not the only one who shares that point of view, and while I know I _____ can't change her mind, I'd like to present other arguments _____ her views.

Researchers have proven that there are many forms of "experience": real life experience, experience through _____, through imagination and now through spending time online. Through the www, you can increase your social skills and _____ knowledge. It is still _____ for me how much I've learned about the world we live _____, and all this has had a very positive impact on my real-world life.

_____ around on the net anonymously has its positive sides. You aren't _____ on the basis of your real-world age, health, appearance, job and financial status. You present the image you want and people will answer to that. Maybe they'll like you and your views; maybe they won't, no problem at all. Many people have claimed that because of this, they've felt _____ to express themselves better, make decisions more confidently, and become more independent. All in all, you have to say that the benefits of the net outweigh the bad sides.

Hello,

I'm responding to the post because I feel strongly that we should not have our PE time reduced. I can appreciate the importance of doing well in exams and focusing on core subjects, but I think that PE is equally important in pupil's education and development.

It goes without saying that spending more time on core subjects would be of benefit to students, but PE is important too.

Getting regular physical exercise helps to improve our health and quality of life, strengthening not just our bodies but our minds as well. Besides keeping us fit, PE helps us to concentrate when in class by getting rid of energy, tension and anxiety that build up while sitting down all day. Not only that, PE also helps us develop important life skills, such as the ability to work with others towards attaining a common goal.

Although I am in favour of deepening my understanding of core subjects, such as Maths, by providing extra class time for them, I don't think that the solution is to reduce time spent on PE.

Perhaps there is another way to increase input into the core subjects without reducing our PE time, such as self-study at home using the Internet.

All in all, I strongly believe that PE is an essential part of our physical, emotional, mental and social well-being and development. Therefore, the solution to the problem presented does not lie in reducing time spent on PE.

1. PE is as important as other subjects _____
- 2.

Now look at the extracts taken from the post and choose the most appropriate replacement for the words/phrases in bold.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. I can appreciate the importance of common goal | 3. ... work with others towards attaining . |
| A. understand | A. achieving |
| B. admire | B. setting |
| C. be grateful for | C. scoring |
| 2. It goes without saying that spending more time | 4. Although I am in favour of ... |
| A. It is difficult to say | A. my favourite idea is |
| B. It is obvious | B. I don't mind |
| C. It is often said | C. I can see the benefit of |

Read the following writing task and the blog written by a student. Try to rewrite the parts of the blog which are underlined in order to make its language more vivid.

TASK An online travel magazine has invited readers to contribute a blog to a special edition entitled Memorable Places. Write a blog describing a visit to a place which made a great impression on you.

Krakow, the old capital of Poland. Just the name of the place is enough to bring back many happy memories. It was around Christmas time, a few years back, when I first visited this city with a group of friends.

We arrived in Krakow at around midnight. I remember that it was very cold and there was a lot of snow about. Our hotel had no lights on when we arrived, but fortunately the receptionist was still on duty. What amazed us was how friendly and hospitable she was, even though it was late and she was obviously tired.

Our first few days in Krakow were spent looking around, exploring the small streets and castle, and looking at the statues and monuments which seemed to be in every public square we found. The old buildings lining the streets were mysterious and throughout our stay in the city, we often felt that we had somehow walked back into a magical kingdom belonging to another age.

The snow continued to fall constantly, which made me feel small and insignificant. Everything was covered in snow, which had the effect of softening the sound of cars and passing trams. What struck me was how pretty it all was.

I will never forget that New Year's Eve. A big crowd had gathered in the main square of the city, and most people were dancing. The fact that everyone seemed so happy well-behaved made an enormous impression on us. We found all the bars in the old town cosy and cheap and everywhere was really clean.

My time in Krakow was a nice experience.