READ

A Listen and follow the text. Choose the correct heading (a-c) for paragraphs (1-3).

now press play

8D Gap years

SKILLS FOCUS WRITING

Across cultures

GAP NEWS

1 A) THINGS YOU MIGHT DO IN A GAP YEAR | B) TWO DIFFERENT GAP YEARS | C) WHAT IS A GAP YEAR?

About 25% of British students take a break when they leave school. This is their 'gap year'. Most of them travel, but some stay in the UK. If they plan it well, it is a valuable experience.

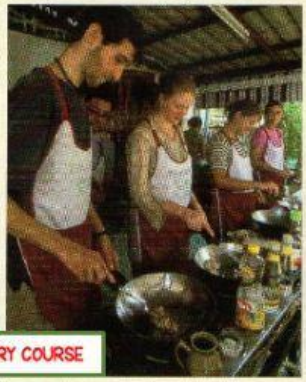
2 A) THINGS YOU MIGHT DO IN A GAP YEAR | B) TWO DIFFERENT GAP YEARS | C) WHAT IS A GAP YEAR?

♦ Be a volunteer
Gap year students help charities all over the world – from environmental projects in South America to working with disabled people in the UK.

♦ Learn something
You can learn to ski in Canada, study Art in Italy, practise photography in Cuba or do a cookery course in your own town … there are so many possibilities!

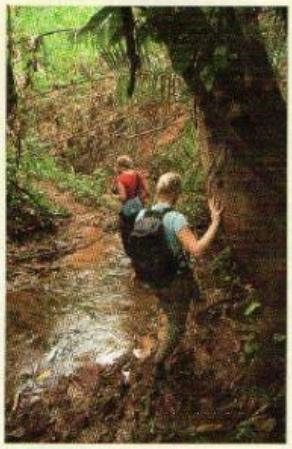
♦ Earn money
There are lots of ways to make some money at home or abroad – like fruit picking in France, building walls in Australia, digging wells in Africa or working in children's summer camps in the UK or the USA.

♦ Go on an expedition
There are travel companies which arrange trips specially for 'gappers'. They travel across African deserts, through South American rainforests or even to the Antarctic. This is a fantastic experience, but often quite expensive.



COOKERY COURSE

FRUIT PICKING



3 A) THINGS YOU MIGHT DO IN A GAP YEAR | B) TWO DIFFERENT GAP YEARS | C) WHAT IS A GAP YEAR?

I'm going to go travelling with some friends. We're planning everything carefully. Every week we have a meeting. We want to go to Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. If we have enough money, we'll go for about six months. At the moment I'm working in a shop for four months, to earn money for the trip, and then we're off!

Becky Martin, Gloucester

For my gap year, I've got a temporary job in the newspaper office where my uncle works. Then I'll have some money when I go to university. I'm just doing boring routine jobs now, but I expect I'll do some more interesting things later. I want to be a journalist so this is a really good opportunity for me to get some experience.

Ben Halliday, London

VOCABULARY

BREAK (noun): A short period of time when you have a rest

VALUABLE (adjective): Very useful and helpful

VOLUNTEER (noun): A person who works without being paid for it, because he wants to do it

CHARITY (noun): An organization which raises money to help people who are sick or very poor

DISABLED (adjective): Having a physical or mental condition that restricts a person in his ability to move or use his senses

DIG (verb): To make a hole in the ground

WELL (noun): A hole in the ground from which a supply of water is extracted

GAPPER (noun): A person who is taking a gap year

STAY AT HOME

Teacher Florencia Segovia

Learn FROM home

COMPREHENSION

B Match (1-7) with (a-g) to make sentences about the text.

1. School leavers	a) go abroad.
2. Most "gappers"	b) want to go to three different countries.
3. Volunteers	c) are fruit picking and building.
4. Photography and cookery	d) help people at home or abroad.
5. Two typical gap year jobs	e) work in the same place.
6. Becky and her friends	f) don't always take a gap year.
7. Ben and his uncle	g) are examples of skills you can learn on a gap year.

C Answer these questions.

1. What is a "gap year"?
2. Where is this trend followed?
3. What kind of things can "gappers" do in their year off?
4. If Becky saves enough money for her trip, how long will she stay abroad?
5. If you could take a gap year, how would you spend it?

LISTEN

now press play

D Listen to Julia talking with her uncle Mick. Choose the correct options.

1 Julia and her uncle are talking about her *exams/future*.
2 Julia *is/isn't* going to university next year.
3 Julia *will never/wants to* go on a gap year.
4 *Some/A few* of Julia's friends want to travel when they are older.
5 Her uncle *had/didn't have* a gap between school and university.
6 Her uncle is a *postman/teacher* now.

Teacher Florencia Segovia