Travel and holidays +

Home or away?

With cheap flights to the Mediterranean and many companies offering all-inclusive holidays – where the price includes travel, food and hotels – it isn't surprising that millions of people in the UK spend their holidays there every year. However, things were different in 2009. The UK had serious money problems that year and it became very expensive to travel abroad. Ordinary people couldn't afford to do it, so staycations became popular. Today, many people can afford holidays abroad again, but some still prefer to stay in the UK. Let's hear about two different staycations.

We usually spend two weeks in the Mediterranean, but last summer we spent two weeks in Wales – we had an amazing holiday! When you cross the border from England, there's a sign that says *Croeso i Gymru*, which is *Welcome to Wales* in the Welsh language. You're visiting another country, but you aren't abroad!

We stayed in Snowdonia, a beautiful area in the north. Every day we had a day out, doing something fun. We went cycling and canoeing, looked around castles and went up Snowdon. That's the highest mountain in Wales (1085 m). You can go by train, but we walked to the top. The views were spectacular. It often rains in North Wales, but we had gorgeous weather for two weeks. We used lots of suncream! It was the best holiday ever – better than going abroad. We want to do the same thing next year!

Cameron

My family didn't go abroad last summer because we couldn't afford it. We decided to have a staycation and stay in our own home instead. I expected it to be a bit boring, but I actually had a good time. Like any holiday, you need to plan some interesting things to do on a staycation. Each of us went online to look for events in our local area. I was surprised how many things there were that I didn't know about! Then, after a long discussion, we made a list of the top ten things we wanted to do. In the end, we did a variety of activities. For example, we looked round an exhibition of modern art (my mum's idea), we went on a cycle tour in the countryside (my brother's idea) and we took a guided tour of some underground caves near our town (my idea). On two days, we did absolutely nothing and they felt good. It was our summer holiday, after all!

Nina

Are the sentences true (T), false (F) or not given (NG)?

1. Many people in Britain had a different kind of holiday in 2009. ___
2. Cameron speaks Welsh. ___
3. Cameron and his family went to the top of Snowdon on foot. ___
4. It rained for a few days during Cameron's holiday. ___
5. Nina was surprised how good their holiday was last summer. ___
6. Nina and her family discovered lots of new things to do near where they live. ___
7. Nina really didn't want to go cycling. ___
8. Nina hated it when they stayed at home. ___

Choose the following from the text and use in your own sentences:

- 3 adjectives
- 3 verbs
- 3 activities you can do on holidays

Imagine you have a staycation. Describe what you do with your family.

LIVEWORKSHEETS