BRITISH COUNCIL

LearnEnglish

Speaking: A2

Talking about personal interests

In this video, Emir asks Paul about his hobbies. Listen to the language they use for talking about personal interests and practise saying the useful phrases.

Before watching

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the two parts of the sentences.

First part	Second part
1. ..... What do you do	a. any hobbies?
2. ..... Have you got	b. you practise?
3. ..... How often do	c. or twice a week.
4. ..... I practise	d. to find time.
5. ..... I normally meditate once	e. when you're not working?
6. ..... Sometimes it's hard	f. most mornings.

Tasks

Task 1

Decide which sentence gives the best summary of the video.

a. Emir and Paul talk about all the different things they do when they aren't working.
b. Paul asks Emir if he would like to try meditation.
c. Emir and Paul find out that they have the same hobby – meditation.

Task 2

Put the words and phrases in order to make sentences.

1. do when working? not do you What you're

2. at in weekends. I'm always the evenings and really tired

3. doing started meditation. recently I've

4. know meditation. I you did do too! I didn't

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5. do How practise? you often

6. but sometimes time. it's hard mornings usually, Most to find

7. meditate a I week. twice normally once or

8. have than that. I more never to do it enough time

Task 3

Complete the dialogue.

How often	I do	See you	What do you do
enough time	What about	recently	hard to find

A: (1)..... when you're not working?
B: I've (2)..... started swimming.
A: I didn't know you go swimming. (3)..... too!
B: (4)..... do you swim?
A: I swim most evenings, usually. (5)..... you?
B: Once or twice a week. I don't have (6)..... to go more than that.
A: I know what you mean. It's (7)..... the time. I'm going swimming this evening.
B: Me too! (8)..... at the swimming pool!

Discussion

What do you do when you're not working?

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Transcript

Ana: Hi! I'm Ana. Welcome to *What to Say*!

Do you know what to say when you talk about your personal interests? Listen out for useful language for talking about personal interests. Then, we'll practise saying the new phrases – after this.

Emir: Hi, Paul. I made you a cup of tea. Just how you like it, milk and two sugars.

Paul: Oh, thanks, Emir.

Emir: You're welcome. So what do you do when you're not working?

Paul: Oh, umm, not much. I'm always really tired in the evenings and at weekends.

Emir: Haven't you got any hobbies?

Paul: Well, I've recently started doing meditation.

Emir: I didn't know you did meditation. I do too!

Paul: Oh, right. So, um, how often do you practise?

Emir: Most mornings usually, but if it's really busy, then sometimes it's hard to find time.

Paul: Yeah, I know what you mean. I normally meditate once or twice a week. I never have enough time to do it more than that.

Emir: What are you doing now?

Paul: Nothing much, just drinking my tea ...

Ana: Hello again! Now that's something you don't see in the office every day! So, did you notice the useful phrases used for talking about your personal interests? Listen to me and then repeat.

What do you do when you're not working?

I didn't know you did meditation.

I do too!

How often do you practise?

Most mornings, usually.

Sometimes it's hard to find time.

I normally meditate once or twice a week.

I never have enough time.

Ana: Try and use some of these phrases the next time you talk about your personal interests in English. Bye for now!

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