LEARNING VACATIONS

Words

Write the letter of each definition with the word it defines. If you don't know the definition, use the context of the reading passage to help you. Look for the words in bold as you read the passage.

PARAGRAPHS 1–4

Words	Definitions
1 ..... ongoing	**A** n., activity with a specific purpose; effort
2 ..... survey	**B** n., a study of opinions in a sample of the population
3 ..... endeavor[1]	**C** adj., continuing
4 ..... sponsor	**D** v., to organize and be responsible for

PARAGRAPH 4

Words	Definitions
5 ..... hone	**E** n., style of cooking
6 ..... supervision	**F** n., direction, assistance
7 ..... breeze	**G** adj., interesting and unusual
8 ..... colorful[2]	**H** n., light wind
9 ..... cuisine	**I** v., to sharpen, improve
10 ..... ingredient	**J** v., to learn something or get something
11 ..... acquire	**K** n., subject matter
12 ..... enroll	**L** adj., with living accommodations, related to housing
13 ..... residential	**M** v., to sign up for a class
14 ..... content	**N** n., an item in a recipe

[1]BrE: endeavour
[2]BrE: colourful

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PARAGRAPH 5

Words	Definitions
15 ..... economical	**O** n., a vacation place
16 ..... resort	**P** n., preference
17 ..... costly	**Q** adj., inexpensive
18 ..... broad	**R** adj., wide or large
19 ..... taste	**S** n., a plan for spending money
20 ..... budget	**T** adj., expensive

Reading

Learning Vacations

(1) A couple spends a week in Thailand learning to cook in the local style. A group flies to Turkey to join an **ongoing** archeological[1] dig for the summer. A history professor leads a tour of historical sites of Europe.

(2) The participants in these trips are all enjoying a different kind of travel: learning vacations[2]. Rather than spending their vacations relaxing on a beach or taking a bus[3] tour of ten cities in eight days, they have opted to enjoy their time off by learning something new. From attending summer camps for adults to studying botany in the rain forest, people everywhere are experiencing the value of a vacation with a purpose. According to **surveys**, close to one-third of travelers[4] each year choose learning programs over other types of vacations, and their numbers are growing.

(3) In the past, these types of vacations were generally considered to be for young people still in school. A student of French might spend the summer studying that language in Paris. A marine biology major could learn to scuba dive and spend a few months at sea assisting researchers. Now, it has become common for adults, too, to spend their vacation time in educational **endeavors**, and various types of travel programs[5] have grown up around this interest.

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[1]BrE: archaeological
[2]BrE: holidays
[3]BrE: coach
[4]BrE: travellers
[5]BrE: programmes

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(4) Art schools and writing programs **sponsor** trips to interesting parts of the world. Trip participants **hone** their creative skills under the **supervision** of professional artists and writers while at the same time enjoying, for example, the warm **breezes** of the Caribbean islands or the **colorful** villages of Spain. Cooking is a popular hobby, and tour companies have developed trips that focus on the **cuisine** of different regions of the world. Travelers may learn all about how traditional meals are prepared and what **ingredients** are used. Or, for those who want to improve their abilities in the kitchen, they may actually receive hands-on lessons, **acquiring** new skills that they can take home with them. Travelers to Britain can **enroll** in courses at any of the twenty-plus adult **residential** colleges around the country. The courses at these schools generally last just a few days and range in **content** from activities such as photography and dancing to more serious subjects such as history, philosophy, and literature.

(5) These are just a few examples of the many types of learning vacations that people enjoy every year. In addition to gaining knowledge and skills, another advantage of these types of vacations is that they can be more **economical** than traditional vacations. Camping out near an archeological site or sleeping in a college dormitory or youth hostel certainly costs less than staying at a luxury hotel or vacation **resort**. And the fact that many of these trips can be organized[6] by the travelers themselves without the services of a tour company or travel agency makes them even more economical. Of course, it all depends on the type of trip one chooses, and some companies offer learning vacations to exotic locales with expert professionals that are quite **costly**. With the **broad** range of possibilities available, there are options to suit all **tastes** and **budgets**.

Answer the questions about **Learning Vacations**.

Questions 1–3

Which of the following types of learning vacations are mentioned in the passage? Choose ***three*** *answers from the list below.*

A Honing cooking skills

B Working on artistic endeavors

C Enrolling in an archeology course

[6]BrE: organised

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D Studying the Spanish language

E Taking classes at a residential college

F Acquiring knowledge about Thailand's history

Questions 4–7

Do the following statements agree with the information in the reading passage?

Write

TRUE *if the statement agrees with the information.*
FALSE *if the statement contradicts the information.*
NOT GIVEN *if there is no information on this in the passage.*

..... **4** Most participants in learning vacations are young people.

..... **5** Surveys show that around 30 percent of travelers take learning vacations.

..... **6** It is common for colleges to sponsor learning vacations.

..... **7** Learning vacations are generally less costly than resort vacations.

Word Families

A

Complete each sentence with the correct word from the word family chart. Make nouns plural where necessary. Use the correct form of verbs.

noun	verb
acquisition	acquire

1 It's fun to ..... new skills while on vacation.

2 The ..... of new skills is just one of the goals of learning vacations.

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noun	verb	adjective
cost	cost	costly

3 A learning vacation could ..... less than another type of vacation.

4 Learning vacations can be ..... , but usually they are not.

5 The ..... of a learning vacation is often lower than that of other types of vacations.

noun	verb	adjective	adverb
economy	economize[1]	economical	economically

6 Taking a learning vacation can be an ..... way to travel.

7 People can ..... by avoiding resort vacations.

8 By planning ....., you can save money and still have a great vacation.

9 A family that doesn't have a lot of money to spend needs to practice ..... when planning a vacation.

noun	noun	verb
enrollment	enrollee	enroll

10 ..... have to pay a deposit for the class.

11 If ..... is low, they will cancel the class.

12 One way to take a learning vacation is to ..... in a class.

noun	noun	verb	adjective
resident	residence	reside	residential

13 ..... colleges are popular places for learning vacations.

14 The student ..... is simple but comfortable.

[1]BrE: economise

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15 The local ..... are always helpful to visitors.

16 This place is convenient for a learning vacation because you can ..... right at the college.

noun	noun	verb	adjective
supervision	supervisor	supervise	supervisory

17 You will always have the ..... of an experienced art teacher during the painting trip.

18 The professor will be in a ..... role on the trip.

19 Experienced art teachers will ..... your work.

20 A professional artist will act as ..... of the trip.

Word Families

B

Choose the correct word family member from the list below to complete each blank.

1	acquisition	acquire	acquires
2	cost	costs	costly
3	economy	economize	economical
4	Enrollment	Enroll	Enrolled
5	supervisor	supervision	supervise
6	residence	reside	residential

Many people are interested in the concept of a learning vacation because it is a fun way to **1**..... skills while traveling. Learning vacations don't necessarily **2**..... a great deal, so they are a good option for people on a budget. If you would like to travel to colorful[1] parts of the world,

[1]BrE: colourful

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taste exotic cuisine, and learn something new at the same time, then a learning vacation might be a good choice for you. If you want to **3**..... , you can plan your vacation on your own. **4**..... in a short course on a topic of special interest, often under the **5**..... of a specialist in that subject, is a common way to spend a learning vacation. If the school that offers the course also has a **6**..... for students, that will make your plans even easier. You don't need the assistance of a professional to organize your vacation. A little research online might provide you with all the information you need.

Paraphrases

Read the sentence from the reading passage. Then, choose the sentence that has the same meaning.

1 *According to surveys, close to one-third of travelers each year choose learning programs over other types of vacations, and their numbers are growing.* (paragraph 2)

A Many travelers have difficulty choosing among the different types of vacations.

B Travelers have an increasing number of vacation types available to them.

C Studies show that there is a growing number of people interested in learning vacations.

2 *Trip participants hone their creative skills under the supervision of professional artists and writers, while at the same time enjoying, for example, the warm breezes of the Caribbean islands or the colorful villages of Spain.* (paragraph 4)

A These travelers improve their artistic skills in beautiful and interesting places.

B These travelers enjoy the work of artists and writers from other countries.

C These travelers assist local artists and writers with their creative projects.

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Dictionary Skill

CHANGING STRESS

The meanings of some words change when different syllables are stressed. These words are spelled the same but are pronounced with different stress. Most are also different parts of speech.

Read the definitions below. Then read the sentences and write the letter of the correct definition for each sentence.

con-tent [KON-tent]
A *noun.* subject matter

con-tent [kon-TENT]
B *adjective.* happy

..... **1** The *content* of the article was quite interesting—it was all about learning vacations.

..... **2** We were *content* to spend our vacation painting and enjoying the scenery.

Listening

Track 18

Listen to the conversation. Complete the chart[1] below. Write ***NO MORE THAN ONE WORD*** *for each answer.*

	Accommodations	**3**.....	**4**..... ends
Painting trip	Beach **1**.....	Springfield University	June 15
Cooking trip	**2**..... college	National Cooking Institute	July 1

[1]BrE: table

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Writing (Task 1)

The chart[1] below shows information about enrollment in courses at an adult residential college.

Summarize[2] the information by selecting and reporting the main information and making comparisons.

Write at least 150 words.

Barkford Adult Residential College
Enrollment by subject area
(percentage of total students enrolled)

SUMMER 2012		SUMMER 2013	
Art Department		**Art Department**	
Photography	25%	Photography	20%
Painting	40%	Painting	30%
Academic Department		**Academic Department**	
History	20%	History	20%
Philosophy	10%	Philosophy	15%
Science	5%	Science	15%

Speaking

Talk about the following topics.

What are some dishes that are typical of the cuisine of your country or region?

What are some common ingredients in your country or region's cuisine?

How has the cuisine of your country or region changed over the past century? How do you think it will be different in the future?

[1]BrE: table

[2]BrE: summarise

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