

Reading

Learning Vacations

A couple spends a week in Thailand learning to cook in the local style. A group flies to Turkey to join an **ongoing** archeological¹ dig for the summer. A history professor leads a tour of historical sites of Europe.

The participants in these trips are all enjoying a different kind of travel: learning vacations². Rather than spending their vacations relaxing on a beach or taking a bus³ 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 travelers⁴ each year choose learning programs over other types of vacations, and their numbers are growing.

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 programs⁵ have grown up around this interest.

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.

¹BrE: archaeological

²BrE: holidays

³BrE: coach

⁴BrE: travellers

⁵BrE: programmes

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 organized⁶ 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
- D** Studying the Spanish language
- E** Taking classes at a residential college
- F** Acquiring knowledge about Thailand's history

⁶BrE: organised

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.

My Words

Write the words that are new to you. Look them up in the dictionary and write their definitions.

Words	Definitions
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Word Families

noun	acquisition	The acquisition of new skills is just one of the goals of learning vacations.
verb	acquire	It is fun to acquire new skills while on vacation.

noun	cost	The cost of a learning vacation can be lower than other types of vacations.
verb	cost	A learning vacation could cost less than another type of vacation.
adjective	costly	Learning vacations can be costly, but usually they are not.

noun	economy	A family that doesn't have a lot of money to spend must pay attention to economy when planning a vacation.
verb	economize ¹	People can economize by avoiding resort vacations.
adjective	economical	Taking a learning vacation can be an economical way to travel.
adverb	economically	By planning economically, you can save money and still have a great vacation.

¹BrE: economise

noun	enrollment	If enrollment is low, they will cancel the class.
noun	enrollee	Enrollees had to pay a deposit for the class.
verb	enroll	One way to take a learning vacation is to enroll in a class.

noun	resident	The local residents are always helpful to visitors.
noun	residence	The student residence is simple but comfortable.
verb	reside	This place is convenient for a learning vacation because you can reside right at the college.
noun	residential	Residential colleges are popular places for learning vacations.

noun	supervision	You will always have the supervision of an experienced art teacher during the painting trip.
noun	supervisor	A professional artist will act as supervisor of the trip.
verb	supervise	Experienced art teachers will supervise your work.
adjective	supervisory	The professor will be in a supervisory role on the trip.

Word Family Practice

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

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 parts of the world, 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 is a common way to spend a learning vacation and an easy one to arrange. If the school that offers the course also has a **5**..... for students, that will make your plans even easier. You don't need the **6**..... of a professional to organize your vacation. A little research online might provide you with all the information you need.

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

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

CD 1
Track
19

Listen to the conversation. Complete the chart¹ 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

¹BrE: table