

## A Adjectives describing free-time activities

| adjective                            | meaning                                  | possible examples  |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>rewarding</b>                     | gives you a lot of positive experiences  | doing voluntary work, helping charities                  |
| <b>fruitful</b>                      | produces good results                    | collaborating/cooperating with someone in an activity    |
| <b>lucrative</b>                     | makes a lot of money                     | selling designer jewellery, writing apps for smartphones |
| <b>therapeutic</b><br>/θerə'pjʊ:tɪk/ | makes you healthy in body and/or mind    | gardening, yoga, jogging                                 |
| <b>relaxing/calming</b>              | reduces stress, gives a peaceful feeling | reading, listening to music, meditation                  |
| <b>time-consuming</b>                | takes a long time to do                  | being president of a club, being a member of a committee |

I enjoyed being secretary of the sports club but it was very **time-consuming**. I had to give up two evenings a week to do it.

The conservation work I do is very **rewarding**. I feel I'm doing something good and useful. Photography has been a **lucrative** pursuit for her. She often sells her pictures to magazines. Painting is such a **therapeutic** activity. It makes me feel good, and teaches me patience.

## B Informal expressions: how people spend their leisure

Rob's a real **culture vulture**; he goes to the theatre regularly and to every art gallery he can find. [big fan of anything cultural]

I'm a bit of a **couch potato**; I spend hours every day just watching TV. [physically very inactive person]

Lucy loves playing tennis but only as an **amateur** – she'd never want to be a professional. [someone who does something as a hobby, not a job]

Fatima's a bit of a **dabbler**; she takes up a hobby for a couple of weeks, then she gets bored and starts something different. [person who never keeps doing one activity for long]

Matt does a lot of **chores** at the weekend – things like shopping and mowing the **lawn**. [boring tasks that have to be done] [grass]

Laura's a **shopaholic**. She buys all sorts of things she doesn't need. [person addicted to shopping; compare **alcoholic**: addicted to alcohol]

Joe **is** heavily **into** downhill skiing these days. [is very involved in]

I **went off** football and I took up golf instead. [stopped liking, lost interest in]

She **locks herself away** for hours in her room and listens to music. [isolates herself from the world]

He's totally **hooked on** motor racing these days. [is addicted to]

What do you **get up to** at weekends, Mariana? [do]

Do you have a hectic social life? I have a pretty **full diary**. [a lot of activities]

Mark is a **keen participant** in all the community activities in his town. [takes part enthusiastically]



## Language help

Words like *shopaholic*, *workaholic* and *chocaholic* are used in a light-hearted way and are different from *alcoholic*, which is a serious and medically recognised condition.

## Exercises

### 16.1 Fill the gaps with a suitable adjective from A opposite. There may be more than one possible answer.

- 1 I find writing poetry very..... . It helps me to get a truer understanding of myself and gives me a good feeling inside.
- 2 I enjoy selling the pictures I paint, but it's not very ..... . I only made £300 last year.
- 3 Gardening is very ..... . It reduces stress levels and calms you down.
- 4 I've had a ..... partnership with Jane for several years: she plays the piano and I play the violin. It's been very good for both of us.
- 5 Doing unpaid work at the hospital has been a ..... experience for me.
- 6 I would like to be on the club committee, but I've heard it's very ....., and I don't have a lot of free time.

### 16.2 Solve these riddles, based on words in B opposite.

- 1 I am a vegetable that sits where humans sit. What am I?
- 2 I enjoy shopping a bit too much. What am I?
- 3 I am a bird that eats the flesh of art. What am I?
- 4 I do some of this and some of that, but never all of this or all of that. What am I?

### 16.3 Answer the questions.

- 1 Which of these is your least favourite chore – washing your clothes or tidying your room?
- 2 How often is it usually necessary to mow a lawn?
- 3 Does an amateur footballer get paid for playing a match?
- 4 If you say that someone 'dabbles in photography', are they a serious photographer?
- 5 When it comes to sport, do you prefer to be a spectator or a participant?

### 16.4 Give alternatives for the underlined words.

- 1 My daughter's extremely interested in folk music. She downloads a lot of traditional folk songs.
- 2 He isolates himself in the attic and plays with his model railway for hours on end.
- 3 She's totally addicted to football these days. She watches every match on TV.
- 4 I have a long list of social appointments for the rest of the month.
- 5 What do you engage in when you aren't working, Nigel?
- 6 Martine performed with enthusiasm in the end-of-term concert.

### 16.5 Complete the dialogues with a word or expression from the opposite page. B agrees with A by saying the same thing in a different way.

- 1 A: Going for a swim helps you forget your everyday worries, doesn't it?  
B: Yes, it's very .....
- 2 A: Dan spends every evening watching rubbish TV.  
B: That's true. He's a terrible .....
- 3 A: I'm not so keen on playing in the school orchestra as I used to be.  
B: Yes, I've ..... it too.
- 4 A: I'd like to join a drama group but it would mean giving up lots of evenings and weekends.  
B: Yes, it can be a very ..... activity.
- 5 A: I don't think I can fit in a tennis match with you for another couple of weeks.  
B: No problem. I've got a very ..... too.
- 6 A: Someone said I could make some money out of those necklaces I make in my spare time.  
B: I agree. I think it could prove very ..... for you.