

The Power of a Gap Year

⚡ Duration: 1 h

⚡ Age: adults / teens

⚡ A2+ / B1 Level

⚡ Group lesson

⚡ Main focus:

Students can understand the main points of short texts dealing with everyday topics.

Students can briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions, plans and actions.

1

Warm-up

Exercise 1. Read and discuss the meaning or meanings of the words with your teacher and classmates.

to recharge

to gain

responsibility

a skill

a gap year

battery

low-cost

abroad

affordable

Exercise 2. Make a list of things you would do during a gap year:

1. Write a book

2. Watch all episodes of the Black Mirror

3. ...

2

Reading

Exercise 3. Read the text. When is the best time in one's life to take a gap year and what is important to do before taking it?

Taking a gap year is not just for students. Many people take a break from work or other responsibilities to travel, learn new skills, or simply rest.

There isn't actually a "best" age to take a gap year. Some people do it after high school before going to college, while others take a gap year after college before starting their career. Some people even decide to take a break in their 30s or 40s! .

It's a great way to recharge your batteries and gain new experiences. You can work in another country, learn a new language, or try a new hobby.

Taking a gap year can be expensive, but there are ways to make it more affordable. You can volunteer abroad, stay with local families, or find low-cost accommodation on special websites or try Couch Surfing. It's important to plan your route and budget carefully. If you're considering taking a gap year, talk to friends who have done it before and do some research online. There are many resources on the Internet that can help you plan your trip.

Whether you're a student or not, taking a gap year can be an amazing experience that will stay with you for the rest of your life.

⚡ Glossary

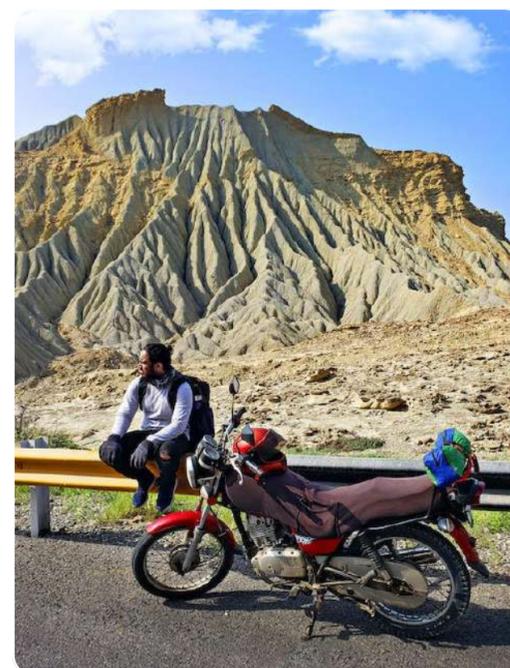
Couch Surfing — the practice of staying overnight in someone's home, typically a stranger's, for free rather than at a hotel or hostel.

Accommodation — a place to live, work or stay in.

Exercise 4. Find the following information in the text and add it to the table. Then add two more ideas to each column. Be ready to share them with the class.

Why people do that

How to make it affordable



Exercise 5. Match the following collocations from the text. Then match the collocations that you've made with their synonymous expressions.

to recharge	accommodation	to have a job in a foreign country
a low-cost	your batteries	to take a break from your routine
to work	more affordable	a cheap place to stay
to gain	a gap year	to make it cheaper
to make it	abroad	to try new things and learn from them
to learn new	skills	to rest
to take	new experiences	to get better at doing different things

3

Post-reading

Exercise 6. Read the text below. Nick is not sure if he should take a gap year. Help him make a decision. Split into 2 groups: one group should find 5-6 reasons for him to take a gap year, and the other group should find 5-6 reasons for him not to do it. Be ready to share them with the rest of the group.

twee

Tweak your lessons
with the power of AI

Nick is a guy who works in an office as a programmer. He has a life partner and they live in a rented apartment in the city center. The location is great but noisy. He also has a dog that he loves very much. His life is stable but he is irritated and tired all the time, and a bit depressed. He doesn't understand what to do with his life and feels lost. He wants to find something that makes him happy.



4

Homework

Write a social media post about your dream gap year destination.

Include why you want to go there, what activities you want to do, and how you plan to make it affordable.

Use the vocabulary from the lesson.



Correct answers and tips

Teacher tip

Discuss the lesson title with your students. Do they know what a gap year is?

Exercise 1

The words were taken from a text created on Twee with the help of the “Extract collocations” tool.

Exercise 3

The text was created in the “Create a text” tool and the glossary is made in the “Word-Definition Matching” tool.

Exercise 4

Why people do that:

- to travel
- to learn new skills
- to simply rest
- to recharge your batteries
- to gain new experiences
- to work in another country
- to learn a new language
- to try a new hobby

How to make it affordable:

- to volunteer abroad
- to stay with local families
- to find low-cost accommodation on special websites
- to try Couch Surfing

Exercise 5

1. to recharge your batteries
2. a low-cost accommodation
3. to work abroad
4. to gain new experiences
5. to learn new skills
6. to take a gap year

1. to rest
2. a cheap place to stay
3. to have a job in a foreign country
4. to try new things and learn from them
5. to get better at doing different things
6. to take a break from your routine

The exercise was made in the “Matching Halves” tool with the collocations extracted from the text. The synonym expressions were taken from the “Word-Definition Matching” output.

Exercise 6

The text was made in the “Create a text” tool.

Exercise 7

The homework was created in the “Creative writing” tool.