

Unbound Souls

🕒 Duration: 1 h

👤 Age: adults / teens

🎓 B2+/C1 level

👥 Group lesson

🎯 Main focus:

Students can keep up with an animated discussion, identifying accurately arguments supporting and opposing points of view.

Students can understand slang, idiomatic expressions and jokes in private correspondence.

1

Warm-up

Exercise 1. Look at the pictures. What do all these people have in common? What brought them there? Choose one picture and come up with a short story about this person.



2

Speaking

Exercise 2: Discuss the following questions in pairs:

1. What is a gap year and how does it differ from taking time off from school or work?
2. Who typically takes a gap year, and what are some common reasons for doing so?
3. Do you think the concept of a gap year is more suitable for teenagers or adults? Why?
4. In your opinion, should employers view a gap year positively or negatively when considering job candidates?
5. Can taking a gap year be seen as a sign of privilege, since not everyone has the financial means to do so?
6. Have you ever considered taking a gap year yourself? If so, why, and if not, why not?

Vocabulary in context

Exercise 3. Read the email. How does the author feel about their decision to take a gap year? How would you describe the author's personality based on the email? What is the tone and register of the text?

Hi, man! How's life treating you? It feels like ages since we last caught up. I wanted to fill you in on what I've been up to since we last spoke - I decided to take a gap year in my late thirties!

So far, I've been going with the flow and seeing where the wind takes me. It's been a refreshing change from the daily grind of working 9-5 and slaving away at a desk. I'm not gonna lie, it's been tough covering expenses since I'm broke as a joke, but I wouldn't trade this experience for anything.

I've been traveling around Southeast Asia and it's been cray! The places I've seen and the people I've met have been amazing. Although, I have to admit, some of the hostels I've stayed in have been a bit sketchy. But hey, it's all part of the adventure, right? It's given me a lot of time to think through what I want to do with my life, and I'm feeling pretty good about where I'm headed. I'm excited to come back home and start the next chapter, but for now, I'm just enjoying being free and living in the moment. Anyway, that's my update for now.

Let me know what you've been up to lately!



Exercise 4. Skim through the text again and find the words matching the following definitions:

- a. to provide information or details that someone is missing;
- b. expressing appreciation for an experience that was valuable and worth having, even if it was difficult or challenging;
- c. to pay for necessary costs or bills;
- d. not clear or complete, possibly unreliable or suspicious;
- e. to carefully consider all aspects of a problem or decision before taking action;
- f. the routine and often monotonous tasks of everyday life, especially work;
- g. working very hard and tirelessly, often with little reward or recognition;
- h. slang for crazy, meaning wild or out of control;
- i. having no money or financial resources available;
- j. to go wherever one feels like going without any specific plan or direction;
- k. a casual greeting asking about someone's well-being and current situation.

4**Speaking: Informal discussion**

Exercise 5. You are hanging out with your friends and suddenly a new topic pops up. You start talking about taking a gap year later in life and there are two opposite opinions:

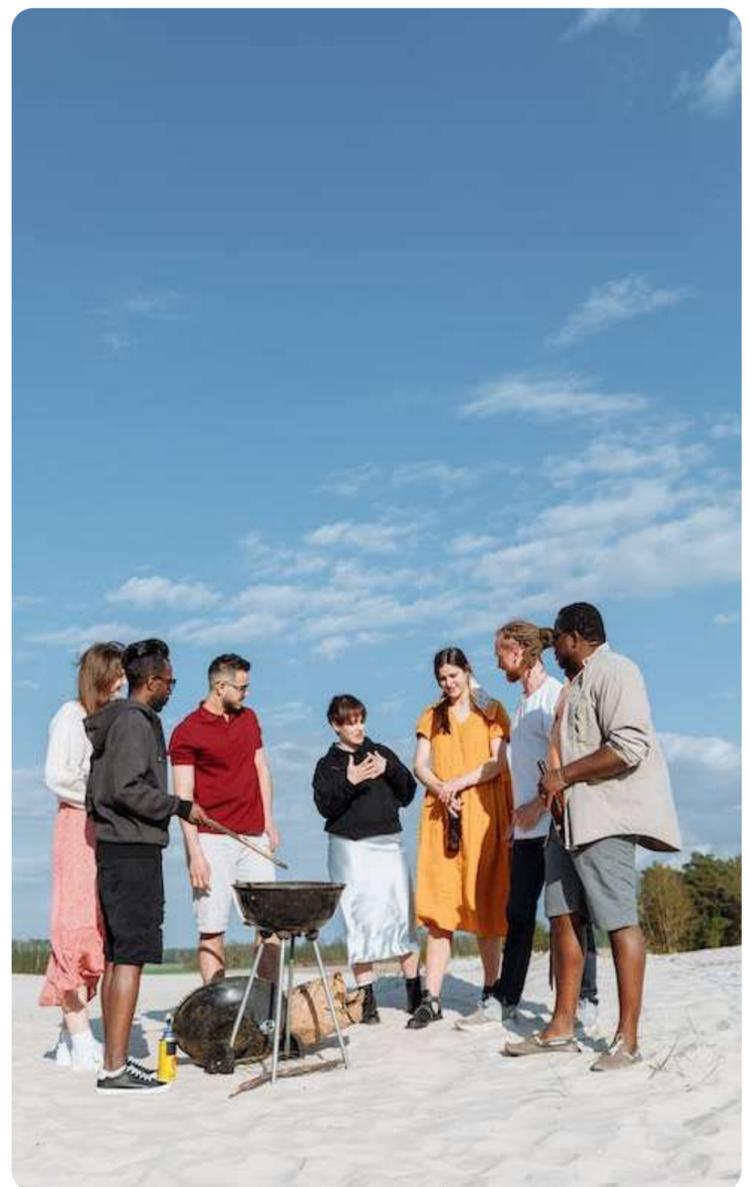
**Mike**

Taking a gap year is completely self-centered and irresponsible. People do it just to escape reality. My buddy decided to take a break and ended up wasting his time partying without getting anything productive done. Now he's playing catch-up while the rest of us are ahead.

**Jane**

I support the idea of taking a gap year in your thirties or forties. It's important to take a break from work and reevaluate your priorities. My friend took a gap year in her thirties and came back refreshed and with a new perspective on life.

- **Pick a card to see whose side you are on and in a group try to come up with at least 5 arguments supporting your point of view to prepare for the discussion.**
- **Be ready to provide facts and examples.**
- **The discussion is informal.**
- **Use as many words from the lesson as possible.**





Correct answers and tips

Exercise 2

The questions were made in the “Discussion questions” tool

Exercise 3

The text was created in the “Create a text” tool: informal letter.

Exercise 4

- a. fill in on
- b. wouldn't trade this experience for anything
- c. to cover expenses
- d. sketchy
- e. think through
- f. daily grind
- g. slaving away
- h. cray
- i. broke (broke as a joke)
- j. where the wind takes me
- k. how's life treating you

The exercise was made in the “Word-Definition matching” tool.

Exercise 5

Teacher tip

- Divide your students into several groups of four, with two people supporting Mike and two supporting Jane.
- You can print out the cards with two names on them: “Mike” and “Jane” (last page) and hand them out.
- When they are ready, tell them which side should start (you can use a randomiser).
- During the discussion, observe and take notes on each student's performance.

