


Killing Time

Start thinking!

Do you have any hobbies? Do you collect anything? What sort of things do people collect?

Reading

1  **1.07** Read this article about hobbies. Underline all the hobbies which are mentioned.

Hobbies Past and Present

During the twentieth century, more and more people found that they had leisure time – time when they didn't have to work or study. This raised an interesting question. What do you do when you are free to do anything you like? Many people took up a hobby, and it's interesting to compare the hobbies people, particularly young people, choose today with the hobbies people chose, say, fifty or sixty years ago.

Stamp collecting is one of the first things that come to many people's minds when they think about hobbies. Organising your collection seems like the perfect way to relax for a few hours. It seems that people have been collecting valuable things since ancient times. **1** When stamps appeared in the nineteenth century, they were cheap and colourful and children started to keep them. By the middle of the twentieth century, collecting stamps was a popular pastime for both children and adults, with some stamps worth a large amount of money – far more than most children could afford.

There are still many people today who collect stamps, but technology has had an impact. Emails can be sent instantly and freely around the world, which means that people aren't

buying stamps like they used to. **2** Rare stamps are still in demand, and probably always will be, but fifty years ago the number of collectors was higher. It seems that stamp collecting as a hobby of millions of young people has had its day.

Another hobby that has changed because of technology is building models. In the 1950s and 60s, generations of young boys and girls built plastic models of planes, boats and cars.

3 Young people are still making and showing off these models, but the nature of them has changed. In the past, they were simply made of wood or plastic, with few moving parts. Modern models have all kinds of electronic and computerised parts, in some cases making them more like robots than traditional models!

Of course, we can't ignore computers when it comes to free time. Computers have had a huge impact on leisure since they were invented in the middle of the twentieth century.

4 Gradually, however, the computer has become a part of almost every home, where it provides entertainment and a whole set of new hobbies that people fifty years ago would have thought were very weird. Today's teenagers use their computers for playing computer games,

2 Match the words and phrases with the explanations.

- 1 to talk about what happened in the beginning _____
- 2 to introduce a result _____
- 3 to introduce a contrast _____
- 4 to introduce an example _____
- a For instance, ...
- b which means ...
- c However, ...
- d At first, ...

running websites, communicating with friends around the world – all hobbies that were impossible until quite recently.

Computers have changed hobbies in other ways, too. These days, no matter what hobby you're interested in, you will almost certainly find a huge amount of information on it on the internet. **5** Today's teenagers are instantly in touch with online clubs and social networking sites that tell them all they need to know. People have produced websites on almost every hobby you can think of. You can get advice from experts and easily buy equipment to take your hobby to the next level. Taking up a new hobby, or developing one you already have, has never been easier or more fun.

Some hobbies, though, haven't changed much. Many young people fill their free time with activities that their parents and grandparents enjoyed. **6** Fishing is as popular as it ever was. Young people with good balance do gymnastics. Teenagers play sports and games like they always have done. A teenager from the past might be confused by a video arcade or a CD player, but many things haven't changed, and perhaps never will. Ask your parents what they did with their leisure time and you might be surprised at some of the differences, but also at some of the similarities. ✕

3 Read the article again. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A–G the one which fits each gap (1–6). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

- A Hobbies seem to have become less important as time has passed.
- B Young people in the past had to rely on people they knew, or perhaps the local library, to learn about their hobby.
- C They proudly put these on display in their bedrooms, or wherever else their parents would let them.
- D However, most people in the past were too busy and too poor to buy expensive works of art or coins.
- E At first, they were seen as strange machines used by big businesses.
- F That in turn means that fewer children are becoming interested in the hobby.
- G For instance, people still go dancing, even if the rhythm of the music has changed.

WORD BOX

4 Use words or phrases from the article to complete the sentences. You've been given the first letter to help you.

- 1 One day, my collection of butterflies might be quite v_____.
- 2 I don't know if I can a_____ to buy any new stamps for my collection.
- 3 I prefer t_____ songs to modern pop songs.
- 4 It might sound a bit w_____, but in my free time I like to study grammar.
- 5 I like music that has a strong r_____.
- 6 I'd like to try gymnastics, but I know I would keep losing my b_____!
- 7 Let's go down to the v_____ a_____ and play *Alien Invasion*.

Have your say!

- Which of the hobbies and activities mentioned in the article do you think are the most/least interesting? Why?
- Would you consider taking any of them up? Why? / Why not?

G Grammar clinic

Present perfect tense review

👁 Look at *Grammar database* pages 171–172 before you do the exercises.

1 Read the sentences and phrases from the article on pages 24 and 25. Match each one to an explanation.

- Computers have had a huge impact on leisure ...
- ... people have been collecting valuable things since ancient times.
- People have produced webpages on ...
 - This is a series of actions continuing up to now.
 - This is a situation which continues up to now.
 - This is a completed action at a time in the past which is not mentioned.

2 Decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- I've been studying English for about six years.
This person is still studying English now.
- Peter Johnson has written five books about fishing.
We know that Peter Johnson is still alive.
- 'I've been sorting out my stamp collection,' said Candy.
Candy finished this action a long time ago.
- Jan has read *Snowboarding for Beginners*. Ask her about it.
Jan's present knowledge is the important thing.

3 Correct the sentences that have mistakes in them. One sentence has no mistakes. Which one?

- I've seen Matt last week, when we were at the karate club.
- I have a long time to play Monopoly.
- Sarah hasn't played football since she broke her leg.
- This is the first time I built a model plane.

4 Complete the sentences using the verbs in brackets in the present perfect simple or continuous.

- I _____ (play) tennis, so I'm quite tired.
- Luke says he _____ (never meet) anybody who plays the xylophone.
- _____ (you follow) the new series that's on TV at the moment?
- My fingers are sore because I _____ (practise) the guitar all morning.
- We _____ (wait) for an hour and our dance teacher still isn't here!
- My dad _____ (take up) a new hobby – cooking!



5 Use the verbs in the box to complete the gaps. Use the present perfect simple or continuous.

join • make • plan • read • think • write

For the last few weeks, my friends and I (1) _____ the creation of a free local library, and now it's ready. The idea is that we have a blog that anyone can join for free. The blog's now online, and about twenty people (2) _____ already, so it seems it's popular. When we read a new book, we upload a review of the book. My friends and I (3) _____ and uploaded sixteen reviews already! When someone (4) _____ a review, if the book sounds interesting, they can borrow it from the person who owns it. We all live locally so that's not a problem.

Over the past couple of days, we (5) _____ about how we can expand the library so it's for people all round the country. One idea is that we could post books to each other, but that might be expensive, so we (6) _____ a final decision yet. We'll see what happens!

Free time activities

1 Match the free time activities with the verbs *go, do or play*.

ballet • basketball • video games • camping • horse-riding • karate • swimming
judo • skiing • gymnastics • fishing • volleyball • the piano • canoeing

'I go/do/play _____ in my free time.'

2 If a word or phrase in bold is correct, put a tick (✓). If it's incorrect, rewrite it correctly on the line.

- 1 How long have you been **playing** karate? _____
- 2 Let's **go** horse-riding tomorrow. _____
- 3 Have you ever **been** skiing? _____
- 4 How much time do you spend **going** video games? _____
- 5 I **go** ballet twice a week after school. _____
- 6 We **do** swimming in the sea every weekend in the summer. _____

Idioms: time

3 Match to make sentences using idioms about *time*. What do the idioms mean?

1 Since my mum retired,	a you have to <i>take your time</i> and do it slowly.
2 I don't really like TV so much,	b <i>on time</i> because I've set the video to record it.
3 I know you're very busy with your hobbies these days,	c she's got a lot of <i>time on her hands</i> .
4 When you're working with valuable stamps,	d <i>in time</i> to see Robert win the race.
5 I hope the programme starts	e but I watch it when I want to <i>kill time</i> .
6 We got to the pool just	f but you have to <i>make time</i> for me!

Phrasal verbs with *down*

4 Phrasal verbs with *down* often have negative meanings. Match the phrasal verbs in the box with the correct definitions.

get down • look down on • turn down
come down with • put down

- 1 If you _____ an offer, you refuse it, or don't accept it.
- 2 If you _____ someone, you think you are better than they are.
- 3 If you _____ a minor illness, you start suffering from it.
- 4 If a vet _____ an animal _____, they kill it because it is old or ill.
- 5 If something _____ you _____, it depresses you.

Magic metaphors

5 When we talk about *time*, we sometimes use words or phrases that have a connection with *money*. Complete the sentences with the words from the box.

valuable • save • spend • waste

- 1 To _____ time, we decided to get everything ready first.
- 2 Stop _____ time watching TV and get your homework done.
- 3 I _____ most of my free time playing volleyball.
- 4 As a senior manager, Mr Harrison's time is very _____.



Listening

1 **1.08** You are going to listen to two people talking about their hobbies. What do they say?

- 1 In the beginning, Speaker 1 felt that this hobby was
 a enjoyable b difficult c boring
- 2 Speaker 2 feels that this hobby is
 a uninteresting b embarrassing c entertaining

2 **1.09** Listen to the same two people and two other people talking about their hobbies. For questions 1–4, choose from the list (A–E) what each person says about their hobby. Use the letters only once. There is one extra letter which you do not need to use.

- A It teaches you about other cultures. Speaker 1: ____
- B You learn to work with others. Speaker 2: ____
- C It demands a lot of free time. Speaker 3: ____
- D It can be stressful at times. Speaker 4: ____
- E It helps you to stop worrying.



Soundbite /Λ/

1.10 Circle the two words in each line that contain the same vowel sound. Listen and check.

- 1 come though luck put
- 2 ran run won rule
- 3 fun far full fuss
- 4 truck trust track true



Speaking

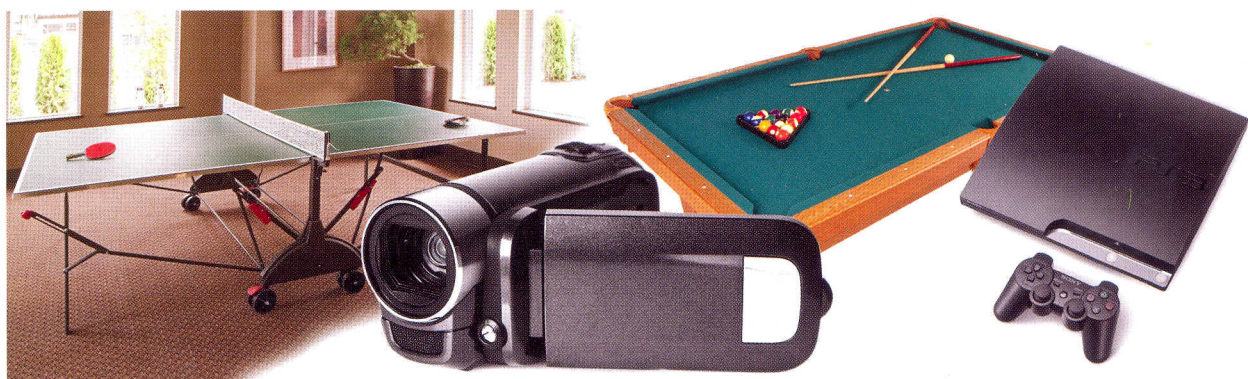
Useful Phrases

1 Circle the correct word or phrase to complete the suggestions.

- I suggest **to get/getting** a games console – we'd have great fun!
- Why don't we **buy/buying** a video camera? Then we could make films!
- Let's get/Getting** a pool table would be a good idea, wouldn't it?
- A good idea **might/can** be to get a table-tennis table. It's cheaper than a pool table.
- I'd like to suggest **to buy/buying** a tablet computer so we can check our email.
- What do you think about **to get/getting** some board games, like chess and backgammon?

2 Work in pairs. Use the phrases from exercise 1 to help you make suggestions.

Imagine you're planning to start a youth club for teenagers in your neighbourhood. Here are some of the things you're thinking of getting for the club. You have about €200 to spend. Discuss how much you think members would enjoy these activities and decide which things you are going to buy for the club.



Look at *Speaking database - Giving/Asking for opinion* on page 165.



Use of English

Articles

👁 Look at *Grammar database pages 172–173* before you do the exercises.

1 Circle the extra word in each sentence.

- In my free time, I listen to the music, go to the cinema and play the guitar.
- The Head gave the Class 7 permission to organise an after-school club.
- I go to the chess club at the weekend by the bus.
- Jenny loves the swimming and she'd like to swim the English Channel.
- We went to the USA and saw the Grand Canyon and the Mount Rushmore.
- You need a hobby, like playing the flute or collecting the stamps.

2 Correct the sentences. Add articles where necessary.

- Oscar had lot of time to start new hobbies when he was in prison.
- I like comedies, whether they are on television or on radio.
- James has taken up new hobby and spends whole evening making models.
- Hang-gliding is great fun, but you need hills or even mountain nearby.
- My hobby is drawing, so when I grow up I'd like to be artist.

4 For questions 1–4, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. Use between two and five words, including the word given. Write the missing words IN CAPITAL LETTERS.

- My parents asked me if I wanted to have ballet lessons. **felt**
My parents asked me if I _____ ballet lessons.
- The teachers object to our playing football in the corridor. **of**
The teachers _____ our playing football in the corridor.
- I regret giving up the trumpet at the age of 12. **wish**
I _____ up the trumpet at the age of 12.
- I am really looking forward to joining my local basketball team. **wait**
I really _____ my local basketball team.
- Dave can't wait to take part in the karaoke competition! **looking**
Dave _____ part in the karaoke competition!
- Why don't you approve of Sarah playing rugby? **object**
Why _____ Sarah playing rugby?



Synonyms

3 Match the expressions which mean the same.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 regret | a feel like doing |
| 2 want to do | b not approve of |
| 3 look forward to doing | c wish you hadn't |
| 4 object to | d can't wait to do |

Writing

An informal letter/email

Look at *Writing database - informal letters/emails* on page 154 before you do the exercises.

1 Read this writing task. Why should your email be informal?

Craig, a friend of yours, is thinking of visiting you and he wants to be able to go to a concert while staying with you. The local tourist office has given you this leaflet and you have made these notes. Write an email giving him the choice of two possible concerts.

Write an **email** of between **120** and **150** words in an appropriate style. You must use grammatically correct sentences with accurate spelling and punctuation in a style appropriate for the situation.

*Craig arriving June 19th
(I think)*

*I've seen Royal Orchestra
- very good!*

I haven't got a lot of money.

Washington Hall

We've got some great concerts lined up for you this season at Washington Hall. There's something for everybody. Tickets are available at the box office.

June 12th-18th
The Robbers This rock group will get you dancing and screaming! They're loud, they're fast, and they're coming to Washington Hall.

[Tickets: €15-30](#)

June 22nd-29th
The Wilson Brothers Country music's most famous brothers are here with their guitars! If you like your music with a good melody and great singing, then let the Wilson Brothers entertain you.

[Tickets: €25-40](#)

June 20th-21st
Royal Orchestra For classical music lovers, the Royal Orchestra is back, bringing you some old classics, and a few new pieces.

[Tickets: €20](#)

2 Decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 You should always use formal language in an email.
- 2 We normally ask each other about our news in informal letters/emails.
- 3 You have to include all the information from your notes.
- 4 You can add extra relevant information not in the notes.

Working model

3 Read the answer to the writing task.



Dear Craig,

Hi! Have your exams finished? I can't wait for you to arrive!

You said you want to go to a concert while you're here. You're arriving on the 19th, aren't you? The Robbers are playing up to the 18th, so we'll miss them. It's a shame because they're great!

So really you've got a choice of two concerts. The first is the Royal Orchestra on the 20th or 21st. I've seen them and they were very good. Tickets are €20 each.

The Wilson Brothers are playing after that. Have you heard of them? I don't know what they're like. Still, might be interesting. I don't have much money so we'd have to get the cheapest tickets. They're €25. Decide which one you want to see and let me know. I'll get the tickets before you come.

Got to go! Mum's calling me.

See you soon,

Kelly

4 Underline where Kelly does these things in her email on page 30.

- 1 asks a friendly question about her friend's life
- 2 checks a piece of information
- 3 tells Craig what the first choice is
- 4 tells Craig what the second choice is
- 5 tells Craig what she wants him to do next
- 6 gives a reason for closing the email

Ready to write!**5 Look at this writing task. You are going to write a similar email.**

Imagine your friend, Tom, is coming to stay with you. While he is staying with you, he wants to go to a concert. Use the leaflet on page 30 and the notes you have made to write an email to Tom, offering him the choice of two concerts.

Write an **email** of between **120** and **150** words in an appropriate style. You must use grammatically correct sentences with accurate spelling and punctuation in a style appropriate for the situation.

Tom arriving on June 15th, leaving on June 21st (?)

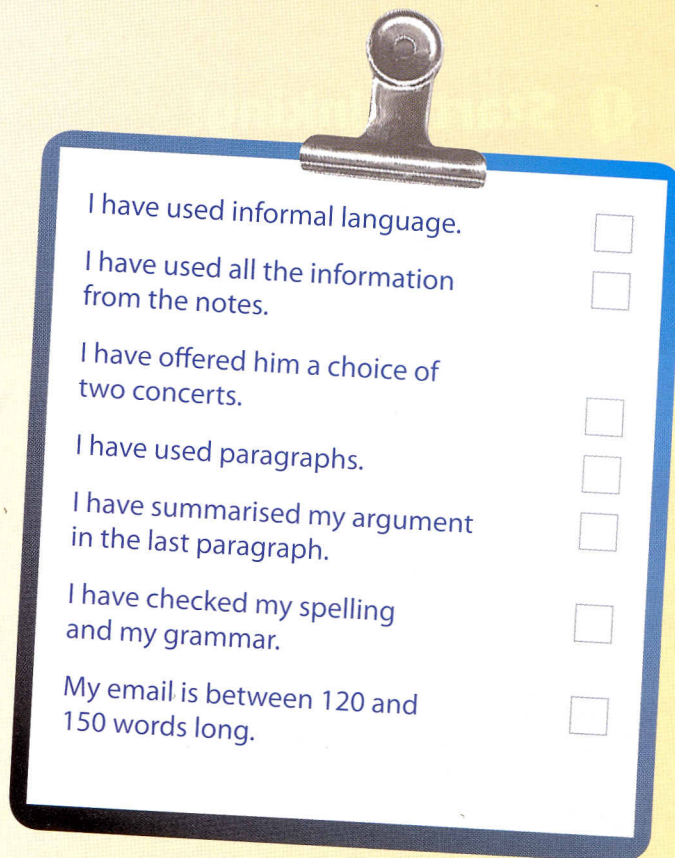
Cost not a problem - birthday money!

Have to book tickets before 6th

6 Make a plan of your answer. Use your imagination.

- How are you going to start your email?
- What question are you going to ask Tom about his own life?
- What piece of information do you want to check?
- What's the first choice you're going to offer him? What's your opinion of this choice?
- What's the second choice you're going to offer him? What's your opinion of this choice?
- Why is money not a problem?
- What do you want him to do next?
- When does he have to do it before?
- How are you going to end your email?

Now complete **Writing Planner 3** on page 156.

Now write!**7 You are now ready to write your email. Use informal language. Include all the information you have to.****Check it out!****8 Check your work. Tick (✓) what you have done.**


I have used informal language.

I have used all the information from the notes.

I have offered him a choice of two concerts.

I have used paragraphs.

I have summarised my argument in the last paragraph.

I have checked my spelling and my grammar.

My email is between 120 and 150 words long.

**Look Back**

Can you answer these questions? If you can't remember, look through the unit for the answers.

- 1 When did people first start collecting stamps?
- 2 What's the difference between 'He's been to India.' and 'He's gone to India.'?
- 3 Which phrase using the word 'time' means 'do something slowly'?
- 4 If something 'gets you down', what does it do?
- 5 Can you think of the name of a country we use 'the' before?