



# Staycations

## Pre-Reading

### A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Did your country experience a recession from 2007–2010?
2. What is a *holistay*?
3. What would you do with a week off at home?
4. Do you find vacations stressful?

### B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. recession           | a) to commit to a scheduled plan, to reserve                        |
| ___ 2. coin                | b) to find a way to have fun or pass the time                       |
| ___ 3. afford              | c) a period of job loss and economic trouble                        |
| ___ 4. out of the question | d) a sudden increase in economic wealth or financial growth         |
| ___ 5. amuse oneself       | e) to invent (a new word or expression)                             |
| ___ 6. swap                | f) in no way possible   |
| ___ 7. stressful           | g) to eventually do something that you had fallen behind on         |
| ___ 8. catch up on         | h) to exchange one for another                                      |
| ___ 9. tempted             | i) have enough money to do or buy something                         |
| ___ 10. boom               | j) causing anxiety and tension                                      |
| ___ 11. book               | k) attracted to something (often something we know we shouldn't do) |

## Reading

### STAYCATIONS

*No need to pack your bags!*

1. The **recession** of 2007–2010 called for the **coining** of a new word: *Staycations*! This word became so popular that it was added to various dictionaries. In the UK, the words *stolidays* and *holistays* became popular. Why these new words? Nobody could **afford** to travel! Expensive holidays are **out of the question** during economic downturns. Does this mean people work for 52 weeks straight? No. Most people still have to take holiday time. In fact, during a recession, some people have to take extra days off with no pay. Instead of going abroad, families that are on a budget find ways to **amuse themselves** close to home.
2. A staycation can be anything from camping at a local campground to **swapping** homes with a neighbor. Having pool parties and backyard BBQs can also be a holistay. Do you ever feel like you need a vacation after your holidays? The thought of *getting away* sometimes sounds better than it is. Traveling can be both **stressful** and expensive. People who stay at home during a holiday break get the rest they need. They **catch up on** their sleep and work on home improvements. They also make time for friends, family, and themselves.
3. Not everyone is capable of enjoying a holiday at home. Some people become **tempted** by email or work. Others feel lazy or alone. Do you have what it takes to enjoy a staycation? Perhaps your country is experiencing a **boom**. If so, you may already be **booking** a holiday cruise!

## Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers in your notebook.

1. Why does the reading mention the time period of 2007–2010?
2. What three words are used to make up *staycations*, *holistays* or *stolidays*?
3. What is out of the question for most people during economic downturns?
4. Name two benefits of *staycations* that are mentioned in the reading.
5. Why are some people not suited to a *staycation*?

# Vocabulary Review

## A. Complete the Sentences

Which word from page 1 is described in the sentence?  
Some words may not be used.

1. Recessions are \_\_\_\_\_ because nobody knows when they will come to an end.
2. We cannot \_\_\_\_\_ to go on our usual summer vacation this year. We're going camping instead.
3. This staycation will allow me to \_\_\_\_\_ my reading. I have a pile of new books to read.
4. Going on a honeymoon is \_\_\_\_\_. We can barely afford the wedding.
5. The housing \_\_\_\_\_ is great for realtors and home owners. Now is the time to sell your home!

## B. Matching

Match each sentence to the correct phrase on the right.

- |       |  |                              |
|-------|--|------------------------------|
| _____ | 1. The children were bored until they found a caterpillar in the grass.  | a) They swapped.             |
| _____ | 2. We are going to buy our tickets for Disneyland this week.             | b) It's out of the question. |
| _____ | 3. Many people in the car industry lost their jobs this summer.          | c) There was a recession.    |
| _____ | 4. Yumi gave Tina her long coat in exchange for a pair of boots.         | d) We're booking it.         |
| _____ | 5. There is no way that you are going out tonight. You failed your exam! | e) They amused themselves.   |

## Discussion Questions

1. Describe the most expensive holiday you have ever been on.
2. What is the best holiday you've ever been on? Is it the same as #1?
3. Why do people need to take holidays from work?
4. What is your idea of a perfect staycation?

## Class Opinion

Walk around the class and ask your classmates questions.  
Write their answers in the chart below.

STAYCATIONS		VACATIONS	
Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons

## Listening – Gap Fill

🔊 <http://blog.esllibrary.com/2010/12/08/staycations/>

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

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3. Not everyone is capable of enjoying a holiday at home. Some people become **tempted** by email or work. Others feel lazy or alone. Do you have what it takes to enjoy a staycation? \_\_\_\_\_ your country is experiencing a **boom**. If so, you may already be **booking** a holiday \_\_\_\_\_!

1. popular, straight, instead of  
2. BBQs, improvements  
3. Perhaps, cruise

### ANSWERS: