

Free time

1 Talk about the statistics with your partner. Is there anything you find surprising?



In the UK, each year ...

99.8% of 11–15-year-olds attend an art event (e.g. music, dance, theatre)

72.8% visit a heritage site or museum

72.7% regularly visit a library

96.1% do sport in their free time



2a Read the article about teenagers' free-time activities. What free-time activities does the article mention?

What do you do with your free time? Experts agree that teenagers need free time to explore their own interests and relax. A recent survey shows that many teenagers spend free time doing 'passive' activities such as watching TV, listening to music, or playing video games. But others spend this on more active interests and hobbies. Some of the most popular activities are doing sports such as football, going to the gym, dancing or performing music. Many teenagers also use this time to do jobs such as babysitting. Other teens have more unusual hobbies. Let's meet two of them.

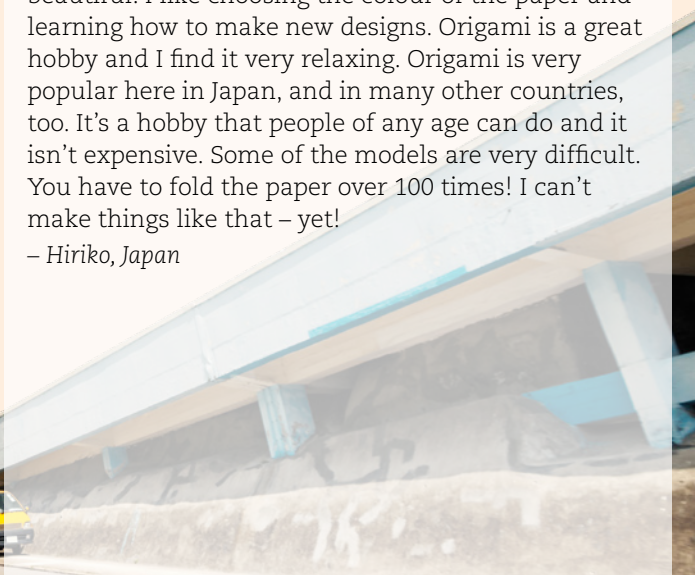
My hobby is 'parkour', also known as free-running. It's a way of getting from one place to another as fast as possible. Some people say it's just running, but it isn't. Yes, you do run in parkour, but it combines running with jumping and gymnastics. It's a way of using your body to travel, but also using the world around you – things like walls and buildings. I do parkour once a week at my school and every weekend I practise outside with my friends. Parkour is popular in Denmark, and we are lucky that the first public parkour park, the JiYo Park, is in my city, Copenhagen. Some people say it's dangerous, but we are always very careful. Parkour is not all about jumping off buildings!

– Andreas, Denmark



My favourite free-time activity is origami. It's when you fold paper into shapes to make small models. I can make birds, flowers and animals. They're really beautiful. I like choosing the colour of the paper and learning how to make new designs. Origami is a great hobby and I find it very relaxing. Origami is very popular here in Japan, and in many other countries, too. It's a hobby that people of any age can do and it isn't expensive. Some of the models are very difficult. You have to fold the paper over 100 times! I can't make things like that – yet!

– Hiriko, Japan



2b Read the texts. What do these sentences refer to? Write *Parkour* or *Origami*.

- 1 It's a way of moving fast
- 2 It isn't expensive
- 3 It combines several sports
- 4 People are careful when they practice it
- 5 People of any age can do it
- 6 You can learn to make very difficult things

2c Read the texts again circle the correct alternative.

- 1 Teenagers need free time to help them do sport/ explore their interests.
- 2 Playing video games is a passive/an active free-time activity.
- 3 Parkour is mainly running/jumping.
- 4 Andreas does parkour alone/with friends.
- 5 In origami, you fold flowers/paper to make models.
- 6 Hiriko likes origami because it's relaxing/it's a hobby for everyone.

2d Match the sentence halves.

- 1 A survey shows that
 - 2 Hiriko thinks that
 - 3 Andreas says that
 - 4 Experts agree that
 - 5 With origami, you can make
-
- a it's important for teenagers to relax in their free time.
 - b lots of different things from paper.
 - c origami is popular in many countries.
 - d parkour isn't dangerous.
 - e most teenagers spend their free time doing 'passive' activities.

Gateway to culture

3a Work with a partner and answer the questions.

- 1 How much free time do you have? How do you spend your free time?
- 2 What do you think are the most popular hobbies for teenagers in your country?
- 3 Do you have an unusual hobby or do you know someone who does? Describe it.

PROJECT

3b You are going to make a poster about free-time activities and hobbies for teenagers in your own country and two other countries. Read the questions and prepare your project research.

- 1 Work in small groups. Choose two countries you are interested in to compare and contrast with your own country.
- 2 In your groups, do some research on the Internet to find information about the following for your country and the countries you have chosen:
 - how much free time teenagers have each day
 - what the most popular free-time activities are
 - some more unusual free-time activities that are popular
 - other interesting or surprising information about free-time activities.
- 3 Work together and discuss what you found out. Decide which information to include and design a poster to present your information. Find pictures to illustrate your poster.

3c Present your information to the class. Display your posters in the classroom. Move around and look at the posters from the other groups. What similarities and differences are there between countries?