

Total English

Intermediate

Britons' ample spare time!

- 1 Investigate how British people perceive their spare time according to a survey. Log on to <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/3582821.stm> and answer the following questions.
 - 1 In order to free up their spare time, will Britons spend more in order to do this?
 - 2 The convenience food sector grew 70% between 1993 and 2003. Why do you think this is?
 - 3 How much did spending on health and fitness clubs grow in the same time period?
 - 4 Why don't people need to go to the bank or supermarket anymore?
 - 5 What is the adjective phrase used to describe people with time on their hands during the week and weekends?
 - 6 What is the adjective phrase used to describe people who feel starved of free time?
 - 7 Which category, 5 or 6 above, do you fall into?
 - 8 What term was used to refer to the group that had a good work life balance?
 - 9 How do working mothers manage their time according to Pickersgill?
 - 10 What are women in their 60s now free to do after managing husbands and houses?
 - 11 Has expenditure on holidays abroad or holidays in the UK drastically increased?
 - 12 What percentage of women confirmed that help in the garden and with housework would help?
- 2 The survey paints a rosy picture of spare time in Britain, but the comments that follow tend to contradict this. Read the comments and summarise four of the writers' thoughts in your own words.

Writer 1: _____

Writer 2: _____

Writer 3: _____

Writer 4: _____

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TEACHER'S NOTES:

Aim: to use the internet to read and answer questions on an article about spare time. This webquest is designed to be used in conjunction with unit 5.

Time: 40 minutes

Materials: photocopies of the worksheets for each student

- 1 Make sure that all students are on the correct website article. Ask students to read the article and then answer the questions. Get students to compare answers with their partner when they've finished. Monitor to check if any students have questions. Elicit answers from the class.

Answers: (correct at the time of going to press) 1 yes 2 convenience food means less time spent cooking and more time spent doing other things 3 179% 4 because banking and shopping can be done from our home computers 5 'time rich' 6 'time short' 7 students' own answers 8 'busy enough' 9 they have so much on that they have to *plan* their time 10 walk the dog and do charity work 11 holidays abroad/overseas holidays 12 45%

- 2 Students have a freer activity here where they can choose four viewpoints on spare time which tend to contradict the article. Students summarise what the writer expresses in their own words. Monitor to check how they are working. Ask some students to read out their summaries to the class. Encourage students to express their views and ask if the situation of the writers is similar to the general feeling about spare time in their own countries.