

2 Extension

Name:

1 The words below appear in the text in Exercise 2. Find the words and guess their meanings. Use a dictionary to check your guesses.

1. cancelling 3. study (n)

2. benefits 4. progress

2 Read the text and answer the questions.

Are Summer Holidays Good for Teens?

Have you always wanted to go windsurfing or learn archery? Or maybe you've dreamed about visiting Paris or Rome? Summer is the perfect time to try new things. It's also a chance to forget about school. But according to some people, that's just the problem – the summer holidays are all about forgetting. They hurt school achievements, they say, because students can't remember what they've learned. What do you think? **Are the summer holidays good for teens?** Read the opinions below to help you decide.

YES!

Teens need summer holidays. Several schools in the US have tried cancelling them and the idea has failed. The teens are miserable and even parents are unhappy. Besides, teens can learn things outside the classroom too. Psychologists have studied the benefits of summer activities. They say teens learn important social skills by taking part in team sports and other group activities. Summer is also a time when teens learn about themselves. Going to the library is one example. By choosing books independently, teens get to know what they like reading. So do summer holidays hurt students' achievements? If an achievement is a mark in a maths test, then yes, they do. But if an achievement is making pottery or performing in a band, then summer holidays are just what teens need.

NO!

Some teens can learn a lot during the summer holidays, but most don't. Instead, they spend hours each day watching television or playing on the computer. Not all neighbourhoods have got activities for teens. In some, a shopping centre is the only attraction. In addition, teens forget a lot of what they've learned at school during the summer. According to one study, by the end of August many children have lost almost three months of progress in maths and reading. By secondary school, the achievements of these students are often low. To help teens, the summer holidays should be shorter. The Japanese understand this. They've made the summer holidays five weeks long and have started giving students a lot of homework during their break. Students also come to school during the holidays for special activities.

1. What are windsurfing and archery examples of?

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2. What can students learn from team sports?

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3. How can teens learn about themselves by going to the library?

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4. What do some teens spend too much time doing in the summer?

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5. How much material do students forget during the summer, according to one study?

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6. What is unusual about the summer holidays in Japan?

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3 Write questions about the text with the words below. Use the Present Perfect Simple. Then answer the questions according to the text.

1. What / several schools in the US / try / to do

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2. this idea / be / successful

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3. Why / the Japanese / make / summer holidays shorter

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4 Imagine your school has decided to make students take summer courses in July. Write a letter to your school newspaper, expressing your opinion on this topic.