

BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Take Away English 随身英语

BBC
LEARNING
ENGLISH

Do we need more holidays? 我们需要更多的假期吗?

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Vocabulary: holiday 词汇: 度假

I live in London and I'm looking forward to 4 May. It's our next **bank holiday**. We have a total of eight of these in England and Wales. I'm planning to grab a **beach towel**, some **suntan lotion** and go to the **coastal** town of Brighton for the day. Some of my colleagues are happy just to go for a **picnic** in one of the city's many parks.

But at sunset after a day of **leisure**, no matter where we are, we will all be thinking the very same thing: why don't we have more holidays?

These collective **days off** work cost businesses a lot of money. A report by the Centre for Economics and Business Research in 2012 suggested that each bank holiday costs the UK economy £2.3bn and **scrapping** the lot of them would boost **annual output** by £19bn.



In holiday mood: I wish I could be here...

But they admit that this figure might be far from accurate. Actually, it's difficult to calculate the loss of **productivity** because some of us compensate by working harder and later. And holidays impact differently in different sectors. A restaurant that caters for employees in the office complex next door will lose a **day's trade**, but supermarkets will have record sales of snacks on warm, sunny bank holidays. The zoo, cinemas, bars, hotels... they all stand to gain when people **idle away** the hours.

I think holidays are good for the soul. It's important to get away from **the daily grind** and on some occasions a holiday can unite a nation. Ask a Brazilian about their carnival. It's an occasion in which everyone in the country seems to **let their hair down**. In Britain, there is sometimes an extra holiday for a royal event, like Queen Elizabeth's **Jubilee**. There are street parties and a real sense of community on these special days. Thankfully, another royal baby's on the way. Maybe we'll get an extra bank holiday for this!

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. What kind of place is Brighton?
2. How much does each bank holiday cost the UK economy?
3. Which businesses benefit from bank holidays?
4. On which holiday do Brazilians relax and have fun?
5. Which word means the small amount of food you eat between meals?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I've been working very hard so my manager gave me _____.

a bank holiday	leisure	a day off	a day's trade
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2. We've just finished our shift. Let's go to a night club and _____.

let our hair down	have a day off	lose productivity	leisure
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3. It's sunny outside and it's our day off. Grab a few sandwiches, some juice and let's have a _____ in the park.

Carnival	Jubilee	daily grind	picnic
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4. Don't guess how many eggs you use in this recipe. You have to _____ for it to work.

compensate	do an estimate	be accurate	idle away
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5. The company's manager gave his best employees a day off and saw an increase in _____.

bank holidays	leisure	daily grind	productivity
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. What kind of place is Brighton? **It's a coastal town in Britain.**
2. How much does each bank holiday cost the UK economy? **A 2012 report by the Centre for Economics and Business Research suggests that it costs £2.3bn.**
3. Which businesses benefit from bank holidays? **Businesses such as the zoo, cinemas, bars and hotels.**
4. On which holiday do Brazilians relax and have fun? **During carnival.**
5. Which word means the small amount of food you eat between meals? **Snack.**

Exercise 练习

1. I've been working very hard so my manager gave me **a day off.**
2. We've just finished our shift. Let's go to a night club and **let our hair down.**
3. It's sunny outside and it's our day off. Grab a few sandwiches, some juice and let's have a **picnic** in the park.
4. Don't guess how many eggs you use in this recipe. You have to **be accurate** for it to work.
5. The company's manager gave his best employees a day off and saw an increase in **productivity.**

Glossary 词汇表

bank holiday	公众假日
beach towel	沙滩浴巾
suntan lotion	防晒霜
coastal	靠海岸的
picnic	野餐
leisure	休闲
day off	休假
to scrap	取消
annual output	年产量
productivity	生产力
a day's trade	一天的营业额
to idle away	虚度时光
the daily grind	枯燥的日常工作
to let (their) hair down	放松一下
Jubilee	周年纪念或庆典