



Vocabulary: employment and education 词汇：就业和教育

When you've finished your studies at school and college, do you feel like a well-earned rest? If you're about to embark on a course at university, you'll want to **recharge your batteries**, **let your hair down** and have some fun. But how long should you do that for? Now the idea of taking a year off before you move into **further education** seems to be *the* thing to do.

A year off – also called a **gap year** – is not a new concept, but there's now a focus on making the most of this break from **academic life**. Long gone are the days of just hanging out on a beach or backpacking round the world. While that is still an option, a gap year is now more about gaining skills that will help you in later life. The BBC's Smart Consumer podcast spoke to a student called Meg, who said "I just always had in the back of my mind I'd spend a year doing something **productive** and something that would just be good fun."

Doing something productive is exactly what students are being encouraged to do because doing more **purposeful** things like **work experience** or **charity work** helps them acquire skills to use when competing for a place at university. It looks good on their CV and ultimately makes them more **employable**. Chris Rea is a Higher Education Services Manager from organisation, Prospects. He told the BBC that he thinks "the experience of the gap year has become actually much more **practical**, partly to do with university participation increasing, but also because of the demands on developing skills, specifically employability skills."

While the benefits of taking a gap year are clear to see, some students worry they can't afford it. Another student, Tom, told the BBC that to him, a gap year was an '**alien concept**'. He said "it would have been far too expensive and it's not something that I would have been able to rely on my parents or family members for." But some experts say that it needn't **burn a hole in your pocket**; you don't need to travel far and you can even earn money by doing paid work.

For those who do have the funds, a combination of working, **volunteering** and travelling is undoubtedly an amazing opportunity. It increases **confidence** and **independence**, gives you a chance to learn new **crafts**, and gives you time to **contemplate** whether university is right for you.

词汇表

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| recharge your batteries | 休整，恢复体力 |
| let your hair down | 放松，享受 |
| further education | 继续教育 |
| gap year | 休学年，空当年 |
| academic life | 学术生涯 |
| productive | 富有成效的 |
| purposeful | 有明确目标的 |
| work experience | 工作经验 |
| charity work | 公益劳动 |
| employable | 有资格任职的，具备受雇条件的 |
| practical | 有实际经验的 |
| alien concept | 外星人的概念，迥异的概念 |
| burn a hole in sb's pocket | 口袋里留不住钱，一有钱就想花 |
| volunteer | 无偿做义工 |
| confidence | 信心 |
| independence | 独立，自主 |
| craft | 技术 |
| contemplate | 沉思，盘算 |

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What does taking a gap year usually involve having a break from?
2. Give an example of something in the article that might make you more employable.
3. Why might taking a gap year not necessarily cost you a lot of money?
4. True or false: *You can choose not to go to university after taking a gap year.*
5. How new is the idea of taking a gap year?

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Grace has been very _____ today and completed all her tasks on the rota.

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| practical | productive | confident | employable |
|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|

2. Getting out of bed before six o'clock in the morning is an _____ to me!

| | | | |
|----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| alien concepts | alien conception | alien concept | concept alien |
|----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|

3. I'm _____ giving up work next year and going backpacking round the world with my boyfriend.

| | | | |
|------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
| purposeful | volunteering | contemplating | confidence |
|------------|--------------|---------------|------------|

4. We've worked hard this term but now it's over, it's time to _____.

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| burn a hole in your pocket | let our hair down |
| further education | recharging your batteries |

5. His ability to multi-task and use all the software made him very _____.

| | | | |
|------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| employable | employed | employing | employee |
|------------|----------|-----------|----------|

答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What does taking a gap year usually involve having a break from?

A gap year usually involves taking a break from academic life – often, but not always between college and starting university.

2. Give an example of something in the article that might make you more employable.

Doing work experience, volunteering or charity work can teach you skills that will make you more employable.

3. Why might taking a gap year not necessarily cost you a lot of money?

Some experts say taking a gap year needn't burn a hole in your pocket; you don't need travel far and you can even earn money by doing paid work.

4. True or false: *You can choose not to go to university after taking a gap year.*

True. Taking a year out gives you time to contemplate whether university is right for you.

5. How new is the idea of taking a gap year?

A year off – also called a gap year – is not a new concept but there's now a focus on making the most of this break from academic life.

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Grace has been very **productive** today and completed all her tasks on the rota.

2. Getting out of bed before six o'clock in the morning is an **alien concept** to me!

3. I'm **contemplating** giving up work next year and going backpacking round the world with my boyfriend.

4. We've worked hard this term but now it's over, it's time to **let our hair down**.

5. His ability to multi-task and use all the software made him very **employable**.