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*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

<b>recharge your batteries</b>	休整, 恢复体力
<b>let your hair down</b>	放松, 享受
<b>further education</b>	继续教育
<b>gap year</b>	休学年, 空当年
<b>academic life</b>	学术生涯
<b>productive</b>	富有成效的
<b>purposeful</b>	有明确目标的
<b>work experience</b>	工作经验
<b>charity work</b>	公益劳动
<b>employable</b>	有资格任职的, 具备受雇条件的
<b>practical</b>	有实际经验的
<b>alien concept</b>	外星人的概念, 迥异的概念
<b>burn a hole in sb's pocket</b>	口袋里留不住钱, 一有钱就想花
<b>volunteer</b>	无偿做义工
<b>confidence</b>	信心
<b>independence</b>	独立, 自主
<b>craft</b>	技术
<b>contemplate</b>	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
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2. Getting out of bed before six o'clock in the morning is an \_\_\_\_\_ to me!

alien concepts	alien conception	alien concept	concept alien
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3. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ giving up work next year and going backpacking round the world with my boyfriend.

purposeful	volunteering	contemplating	confidence
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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
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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**.