

# Thematic Unit

## Learners' Lives as Curriculum©

### Fun Things To Do With Our Free Time

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# Fun Things To Do With Our Free Time

## IDA'S STORY

I remember when I was fourteen years old my mother taught me how to sew. I enjoyed doing it because it was fun. One day, my mother and I sewed a beautiful dress for me. It was pink with little white dots on it. I wore it on my sixteenth birthday. When my daughter was small, I made the same dress for her.



*Ida R. is an ESL student at the Erie Career Link. She was born in Italy.*

- Do you remember something you learned when you were young?
- Do you still do it today?

# PLAYING WITH LANGUAGE

- A. Listen to Ida's story.  
 B. Listen again, and point to the words you hear on the chart below.

Infinitive Form	Present Tense	Past Tense
to be	am/is/are	was/were
to teach	teach	taught
to enjoy	enjoy	enjoyed
to sew	sew	sewed
to wear	wear	wore
to make	make	made

- C. Finish the story with the correct words from the chart above.

I remember when I \_\_\_\_\_ 14 years old. My mother \_\_\_\_\_ me how to sew. I \_\_\_\_\_ doing it because it was fun. One day, my mother and I \_\_\_\_\_ a beautiful dress for me. I \_\_\_\_\_ it on my 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. When my daughter was small, I \_\_\_\_\_ the same dress for her.

- D. What are some things that you do in your free time? Can you learn more? Check (✓) your answers.

Can you _____?	Yes	No	I want to learn to ____.
sew			
knit or crochet			
paint			
cook			
grow plants			
play sports			

## PICTURE DICTIONARY : FUN THINGS TO DO



**SEWING**



**COOKING**



**PAINTING**



**TAKING PICTURES**



**FISHING**



**COLLECTING**



**KNITTING**



**HUNTING**



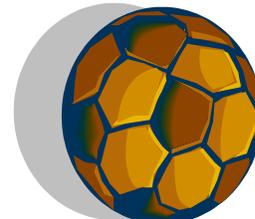
**GROWING PLANTS**



**PLAYING MUSIC**



**FIXING CARS**



**PLAYING SPORTS**

### TALK ABOUT THESE ACTIVITIES.

Use words from the Picture Dictionary.  
Tell a partner.

I like \_\_\_\_\_.

I want to learn about \_\_\_\_\_.

What other free time activities you can think of?

## LEARNING ABOUT EACH OTHER

Walk around the room. Ask questions. ("Do you like cooking?"). Write your classmates' names.

### FIND SOMEONE WHO:

Likes COOKING \_\_\_\_\_

Likes SEWING \_\_\_\_\_

Likes KNITTING or CROCHETING \_\_\_\_\_

Likes FISHING or HUNTING \_\_\_\_\_

Likes COLLECTING THINGS \_\_\_\_\_

Likes PLAYING SPORTS \_\_\_\_\_

Likes TAKING PICTURES \_\_\_\_\_

Likes GROWING PLANTS \_\_\_\_\_

## DOING IT IN ENGLISH

Listen to your teacher explain the Present Continuous Tense.

Present Continuous Tense : to be + verb + "ing"

She is taking pictures. He is weaving. She is collecting coins.

Use the information from the "Find Someone Who" exercise. Write 3 sentences in the Present Continuous Tense. (Suzy likes to sew. = Suzy is sewing.) Read your sentences to a classmate.



## SABIHA'S STORY

One of my favorite pastimes when I was younger was collecting used postcards. I used them to make little boxes and houses. My friends brought them to me, and I had many of my own. Sometimes I just liked to look at the postcards to see what cities were on the front. I compared postcards with my best friend. We had a lot of fun trading them. We were very happy, and I laugh now, thinking of it.

*Sabiha M. is from Bosnia. She left to make a better life for her son, free from war.*



### TELL US ABOUT IT

Talk with your partner about things you each collected as a child, or collect today. (For example: stamps, toy cars, bottle caps, baseball cards, coins, or dolls.)

Tell the class about your partner's collection. Listen as he or she talks about what you collect, too.

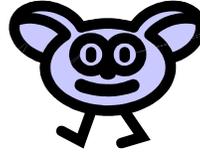
## TAKING A GOOD LOOK:

A. Do you see something you like to do here?

B. What are the people doing? Write the name of each activity. Take turns telling your partner.

C. Tell your partner what you would like to learn about. Ask your teacher if you need help!





## LISTENING IN:

A. Listen as your teacher talks about something he or she likes to do in his or her free time.

B. What does your teacher like to do? How did he or she learn about it? Talk about it with a classmate.

C. Work with a partner. Write 2 questions you can ask your teacher about his or her favorite free time activity.

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D. Take turns asking your teacher the questions you wrote.

# MORE STORIES

I think fixing cars is a good job or hobby. I went to a mechanic shop and they gave me job training. I learned how to fix cars, and I still do it today.

*Hung M. is an ESL student at the Career Link in Erie, PA. Mai escaped the Communists and made his way to the U.S. He wrote these stories.*



I would like to learn to cook Chinese food, and other things.



*Nataliya B. is a wife and mother from the Ukraine. Her family fled religious persecution. She says that the bayan is a string instrument native to that region.*

I like to listen to music very much, especially the guitar, piano and bayan. When I was a child, gypsies would come to my village and play music. They would always play the guitar. I liked it very much. After I heard the piano and bayan on TV, I liked that music too. When I went to school, my music teacher had a bayan. She played wonderfully, but I did not have a chance to learn how to play any musical instruments. I always envied people who play them, but I am glad that I can at least listen to them play.



*Mariya B. is a wife and mother from the Ukraine. Her favorite thing to read is Russian news.*

One of my favorite pastimes is knitting. When I was a student in high school I did it. I knitted socks, caps, and scarves. Now my favorite hobby is reading books. I can't always do this, because I don't have a lot of free time.



My favorite hobby is probably taking pictures. I like taking pictures of animals and nature. I have been taking pictures since I was about 10 years old. I have two cameras. One is a nice Kodak digital, which I use for everyday pictures. I like to use the other one for nature shots. I prefer the digital camera more because it is easier to load onto a computer, and can be touched up straight from home.

*Bola M. is a refugee from Somalia. She attends ESL classes at the Hispanic American Council of Erie. She works in a daycare center. She wrote both of these stories.*



I have always wanted to learn about painting. Artists always paint something. It looks good to me, especially when they paint a person. I would like to ask them if they could teach me. Before I asked them, I would like to go to school to learn more about painting. I want to learn how to paint people, and everything. It would be very interesting.

## **BRINGING THE OUTSIDE IN** **SHOW AND TELL:**

**Read the questions. Do one of the activities.**

Can you **PLAY MUSIC**? Bring in your favorite instrument, a picture of it, or some music you like to play.

Can you **SEW**? Bring in something you have made.

Can you **KNIT or CROCHET**? Bring in something you knitted or crocheted.

Can you **COOK**? Bring in a recipe you like, or make your favorite food for the class.

Can you **FISH or HUNT**? Tell about a fish you caught, or an animal you hunted. Bring in a picture if you can.

Can you **PAINT**? Bring in a painting you did.

Can you **TAKE PICTURES**? Bring in your camera or a picture you took.

Can you **GROW PLANTS**? Bring in a picture of a plant you grew, or tell us about a plant you grew.

Can you **FIX A CAR**? Bring in some of the tools you use.

Do you **COLLECT** something? Bring in something you collect.

Do you **PLAY SPORTS**? Bring in some of the equipment you need when you play your favorite sport.

# LEARNING TO HAVE FUN

Watch your teacher, and listen to his or her story about a free time activity. Copy what your teacher is doing. Follow your teacher's directions as you learn the activity yourself.



## ASK AN EXPERT

A. Ask a classmate about his or her free time. What does he or she do? What materials or tools do you need for this activity? Make a list.

Activity \_\_\_\_\_

Things I need :

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

B. Repeat the exercise, this time talking about YOUR favorite thing to do in your free time.

Activity \_\_\_\_\_

Things I need :

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_



## TALKING IT OVER

A. Tell your Teacher or a partner what you like to do in your free time, using words from the Picture Dictionary.

B. Ask your partner or teacher to help you write down what you talked about.

C. Can you teach this activity to your friends or family?

## IDEAS FOR ACTION

Choose a craft or activity from the Picture Dictionary you would like to learn more about. Make a list of things you will need to do the project or activity. (Look at the “Ask an Expert” section if you need help).

Now USE your list. Pick one of the following activities, and do it. Ask your teacher or a classmate if you need help!

⇒ Use the telephone book to find craft, garden, or sports stores in your city. Go to one of these stores. Find the things on your list. Write the price of each thing on the list. Tell your class about your trip.

⇒ Make or do the activity you picked from the Picture Dictionary. Bring an example to class. Tell the class what you liked, or did not like, about the activity.

## TAKING IT ONE STEP FURTHER

In this unit, you have learned about things to do in your free time. Now, plan a craft and information fair with your classmates, or others in the community, to show off your new skills!



## LOOKING BACK

A. In This Unit I LEARNED:

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B. I Want To Know More About:

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C. What I Liked Best:

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D. What I Liked Least:

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# LEARNING LOG

## Free Time Activities: Words and Phrases

**Vocabulary: Check (✓) The Words You Know, Add More That You Learned.**

VERBS		NOUNS	
SEW		NEEDLE	
KNIT		FABRIC	
FISH		CANVAS	
TAKE PICTURES		KITCHEN UTENSILS	
PAINT		CAMERA	
GROW PLANTS		FISHING POLE	
FIX		BAIT	
TEACH		STAMPS	
LEARN		POSTCARDS	
PLAY MUSIC		PAINT BRUSH	
COOK		PAINT	
COLLECT		TOOLS	
ENJOY		GUN	
MAKE OR DO		TARGET	
OTHERS :		OTHERS :	
_____		_____	
_____		_____	
_____		_____	

**Language: Check (✓) What You Can Do in English.**

I can:

- \_\_\_\_\_ read short stories.
- \_\_\_\_\_ talk about things I do for fun.
- \_\_\_\_\_ talk about things my classmates and my teacher do for fun.
- \_\_\_\_\_ find numbers in a telephone book.
- \_\_\_\_\_ make a list and go shopping.
- \_\_\_\_\_ make or do a new thing that is fun or relaxing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ show people how to make or do MY favorite fun activity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ write or tell someone a short story about how I have fun.