

Today I'll tell you how to speak about free time activities in English.

The British and Americans like to do a lot of different things in their free time such as doing sports, taking photos, watching TV, listening to music, reading books, playing different games, and DIY. DIY means "do it yourself"- different activities and things that people can do without any help of professionals or with their own hands.

Let's look at the most popular activities in the UK. Most of all the British like watching TV. Spending time with friends and family takes the second place. Listening to music and shopping are also very popular.

In the USA the picture is pretty much the same. Watching TV is number one. Reading goes to the second place followed by "computer and the Internet", and spending time with family and friends is number four.

When we talk about an activity we need to add the suffix – ing to a verb. For example: read**ing**, cook**ing**, danc**ing**, collect**ing**. This form is called "The Gerund".

The Gerund often takes the third position in the sentence, it is "The Object". For example: "I like cooking". Number 1 is I. Number 2 – like. Number 3 – cooking.

The Gerund is also number 1 in the sentence, or "The Subject", for example: "watching TV is not my favorite activity". Number one is "watching TV", number two – "is not", number three – "my favorite activity".

Some activity words go together with the verbs "do", "go" and "play" such as "do sports", "go swimming", "do karate", for example: "A lot of people in the UK and the USA do different sports: they go swimming, play football or do karate"

More phrases with "do": do sports, do gardening, do arts and crafts, do shopping, do karate, do judo, do aerobics, do athletics, do gymnastics.

When you talk about shopping, you can say "do the shopping", "do my shopping", or "go shopping".

More phrases with "go": go swimming, go jogging or go running, go skiing, go sailing, go fishing. Jogging and running are synonyms. If you say "go jogging or go running", the meaning is practically the same.

We use the verb "play" to talk about team games, for example: play volleyball, play football, play golf, play tennis, play chess, and play board games.

We always use "the" in the phrases: go to the cinema, go to the theatre, go to the gym.

Sometimes American and British words are different, but their meaning is the same. For example: Americans go to the "movies", the British go the "cinema".

We say "see a film" or "watch a film" when we mean "purpose", for example: "Every weekend we go to the cinema to see a new film" or "Every weekend we go to the cinema to watch a new film". Both variants are correct.

But we use only the verb "watch" when we speak about "process", for example: "I like watching films at home"