

International Conversation Café

Lifestyle Topic: Hobbies

A **hobby** is a regular activity done for pleasure during one's leisure time, but not for pay. Hobbies include collecting themed objects like Starbuck cups. Some people engage in creative and artistic pursuits or playing sports. People who do hobbies gain a variety of skills and expertise.

What would you say are your favorite hobbies?

Do you prefer indoor or outdoor hobbies?

What skills or expertise have you gained through hobbies?

Hobbies tend to follow trends in society. For example stamp collecting was popular during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries as postal systems were the main means of communication. As people gained more leisure time and greater financial resources, hobbies became more popular. Today, video games are popular.

In every country and culture, there are things people enjoy doing in their free time for fun and pleasure. These activities may be influenced by the culture itself, by where a person lives, by how much free time is available and by how much money they have.

What would you say are the most common hobbies that people have in your country?

What is most common for men? women? The older generation? The younger generation?

According to the website www.hobbyhelp.com here is a list of The Top 10 Hobbies In The World:

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|--------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Reading | 5. Television | 9. Gardening |
| 2. Traveling | 6. Bird Watching | 10. Video Games |
| 3. Fishing | 7. Collecting | |
| 4. Crafting | 8. Music | |

Are there any that you are surprised made the list? Why?

Are there any hobbies that you think should be on this list that are not? Why?

Take the list and number it according to what is most interesting to you. Share it with your group.



According to the website https://www.ehow.com/slideshow_12221978_top-us-hobbies.html here are The Top 10 Hobbies in the USA:

#1 Watching TV -- Americans spend half their leisure time in front of the television, making it the most popular 21st-century "hobby." According to a report by The Nielsen Co., 56.4 percent of that time in front of the TV is spent watching reality TV, while only 20 percent is spent watching sports.

#2 Sports and Exercise -- Men are 6 percent more likely to exercise or play sports than women. According to the National Sporting Goods Association, the activities that both sexes engaged in the most in 2010 were "exercise walking," exercising with equipment, swimming, bike riding and bowling.

#3 Reading -- Leisurely reading varied drastically by age group. "Individuals age 75 and over averaged 1.1 hours of reading per weekend day," the ATUS says. "Conversely, individuals ages 15 to 19 read for an average of 6 minutes per weekend day."

#4 Computer Games -- "Currently there are more than half a billion people worldwide playing online games at least an hour a day -- and 183 million in the US alone," writes Jane McGonigal, author of "Reality is Broken. "The average young person racks up 10,000 hours of gaming by the age of 21. That's almost exactly as much time as they spend in a classroom during all of middle school and high school if they have perfect attendance. Most astonishingly, 5 million gamers in the U.S. are spending more than 40 hours a week playing games -- the same as a full-time job!"

#5 Social Networking -- "Social networks and blogs reach nearly 80 percent of active U.S. Internet users and represent the majority of Americans' time online," the Nielsen Social Media Report says. Where does America spend its time online? In May 2011, Americans spent 53 billion minutes on Facebook, making it the most popular U.S. website.

#6 Playing or Listening to Music

9 Shopping

#7 Traveling

#10 Relaxing and Thinking

#8 Going to the Movies

Is there anything surprising to you about this list and the information given?

What does this say to you about the culture here in the USA?

What do you think is good about this list? What is not so good?

How have your hobbies and interests changed since coming to the USA?

What are some hobbies you would like to pursue here in the USA if time and money will allow?