

6. Decide on the prices and opening times.
7. Discuss the layout of the brochure.
8. Prepare photos or pictures.
9. Write the text of the brochure together and make the brochure.
10. Get ready to present your brochure together.

Lesson 8. The pleasures of imagination

1.  Listen, read the text and explain its title.

The pleasures of imagination

After Paul Bloom¹

How do Americans spend their leisure time? The answer might surprise you. The most common activity is not eating, drinking alcohol, or taking drugs. It is not socializing with friends, participating in sports, or relaxing with the family.

Our main leisure activity is participating in experiences that we know are not real. When we are free to do whatever we want, we turn to (обращаемся к) the imagination – to worlds created by others, as with books, movies (films), video games, and television (over four hours a day for the average American), or to worlds we ourselves create, as when daydreaming² and fantasizing ['fæntəsaɪzɪŋ]. While citizens (граждане) of other countries might watch less television, research in England and the rest of Europe finds a similar fascination with the unreal.



¹Paul Bloom is a professor of psychology at Yale University, USA. He is the author of the book *How Pleasure Works: The New Science of Why We Like What We Like*.

²**daydream** ['deɪdrɪm] – to spend time thinking about something pleasant, especially when you should be doing something more serious

Surely we would be *better off* doing more practical things – eating and drinking, developing relationships with the surrounding people, building homes, and teaching our children. Instead, 2-year-olds pretend (притворяются) to be lions, students stay up all night playing video games, young parents hide from their little kids to read novels...

well off – 1. rich, or having enough money to live well 2. in a good situation, or very lucky

What is the solution to this puzzle?

One solution to this puzzle might be Reality Lite¹ – a useful substitute² when the real pleasure is unavailable, too risky, or too much work.

Often we experience ourselves as the main character of an imaginary event, described in a book or shown in a film. In other words, we get transported. But how? Through visual effects, the pictures that we see while watching films or playing video games, through the power of the WORD, used by authors. They can create the illusion [ɪˈluːʒ(ə)n] of running around shooting aliens, or doing tricks on a skateboard, that fools a part of us into thinking that we, ourselves, are acting.

Besides, we have information that people lack in real life. We know what's going to happen, or what the other characters think, because we see them in different situations, we always follow them. WE become the main characters with their complex relationships and conflict around love, family, wealth (богатство), and status.

This fight makes the main characters to take action, and through this action we become part of a different life, very fast and full of adventures. Together with the main characters we learn something new from their experiences, and together with them we become different – better, stronger, cleverer, wiser.

¹ **Lite** – a spelling of ‘light’ that is often used in the names of foods and drinks that contain less sugar or fat than usual

² **substitute** [ˈsʌbstɪtjuːt] – something that people accept instead of something else, even though they know that it is not as good or as useful (заменитель, суррогат)

Together with the main character we might suffer the loss of our dearest and nearest. But to stop the pain we simply wake up from our dreams and jump back to Earth. What can be more pleasant and exciting?

2. The text can be divided into two parts. Each part starts with a question. Answer the questions for the first and second parts of the text.

3.  Work in pairs. Write an 8-sentence summary of the text, using one sentence about each paragraph.

4. Work in pairs. Explain why people enjoy reading books and watching movies. Compare with other students' explanations.

5. Does this text help you to explain your findings about the most popular leisure time activities? (Lesson 6). Can you offer any other explanation?

Lesson 9. The trip of my life

1. Organize a role play 'The trip of my life'.

A. Split in two groups:

1) Travel agency specialists. You consult clients who want to make a trip to another country and want to know a lot of things. **Your task** is to sell as many tours as possible.



2) Clients ['klaɪənts] of the travel agency. You have won a lottery and want to make a trip of their lives to another country. **Your task** is to buy dream tours at a good price.