

COMMUNICATION

Making a difference to society

LEVEL

Intermediate (B1)

NUMBER

EN_B1_1091X

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can recognise and recall vocabulary related to volunteering.
- I can talk about my own volunteering experience and the range of benefits of volunteering.



Warm-up

Look at the photo below. Who are these two people? What do you think they have just finished doing?





Discuss

What does it mean if someone is a volunteer?



Which organisations usually need volunteers?



Reading

1. **Read** the dialogue between two friends, Margherita and Simone.
2. **Answer** the questions in the red box.

Margherita: So, I'm finally going to start volunteering at that soup kitchen in the centre of Leeds. Did I tell you about this the last time we met?

Simone: No, you didn't. Go on!

Margherita: It's on Admiral Street. They feed the homeless. I've been thinking about doing it for a while, actually. Have you ever got involved in a project like that before?

Simone: You mean working as a volunteer? It's not my thing at all, really. I would never work for free.

Margherita: I hope I'll have the chance to give something back to the community. For me, that's what volunteering's all about, not working for free.



1. What is Margherita going to start doing?
2. How does Simone react to Margherita's news?



Reading

1. **Read** the dialogue between two friends, Margherita and Simone.
2. **Answer** the questions in the red box.

Simone: Well, the summer before university, I worked on a farm in Turkey in exchange for food and somewhere to sleep.

Margherita: Kind of similar, then, I guess. My friend Jane volunteered at this kitchen and she said working there helped her to grow as a person.

Simone: True. Some people simply can't afford to do that, though! I don't think it's worth doing any kind of work if you don't get paid for it.

Margherita: Yes, but Jane also said that it opened her eyes to what's important in life. That's something you can't put a price on!



3. Why was Simone in Turkey?
4. Who is Jane? Why does Margherita mention her?



Match the phrases with their meanings

1 I'm going to start volunteering at a **soup kitchen**.

2 I'll be **feeding** the homeless.

3 Have you ever **got involved in** a project like that before?

4 I worked **in exchange for** food and somewhere to sleep.

5 That's okay if you can **afford** it.

a have enough money to pay for

b giving food

c giving something in return for something else

d a place where food is offered for free or at very low prices.

e taken part in

I'd never **work**
for free.



In the dialogue, Simone says that she would never **work for free.**
Would you **work for free**?

It's a chance to
give something
back.



Margherita wants to
give something back
to the community.
What does she want to
give?

It's **not worth**
doing work unless
you get paid.



This is Simone's opinion
on volunteering.
If we say something **is**
not worth doing, do
we think it's a good or a
bad idea?



It helped me to **grow as a person!**



How can volunteering help you to **grow as a person?**



Discuss

**Have you ever worked
as a volunteer before?**



**If not, what kind of
project would you like
to get involved in?**



What do you think?

Answer the questions as a class or in breakout rooms.

“ I’ll have the chance to give something back. For me, that’s what volunteering is all about, not working for free.

Do you agree or disagree with Margherita?

Is volunteering about working for free or not?

Would you ever work for free or not?



Voluntourism

Noun

Have you heard the term **voluntourism** before? What do you think it might mean?

What do you work in exchange for?





Discuss

**Would you like to
volunteer abroad?**



**If so, where would you
go? Would you do it
alone or with others?**



Vocabulary review

Look at the vocabulary list below. We use this vocabulary to talk about volunteering. Do you know all of the words and phrases?



to work for free

in exchange for

**to become a
volunteer**

soup kitchen

**to give back to the
community**

to feed

to afford

**to be worth doing
something**

to grow as a person

voluntourism

Debate: Is voluntourism really volunteering?

Read the statements below and discuss them with your classmates.

Do you agree with the first speaker or with the second speaker?

What else do you have to say about this topic?



Voluntourism isn't really volunteering. It's just a way to stay somewhere for free.

Not everyone can afford to be a volunteer and work for free!

- I think...
- In my opinion...
- I'm not sure about that...
- I agree...
- I disagree...



End of the lesson

Idiom

There's no such thing as a free lunch.

Meaning: we say this when we want to emphasise that we cannot get something for nothing.



Additional practice



Fill in the gaps

Fill in the **gaps** with the words provided in the red box on the right.

- 1 When I was younger, I worked as a _____ at a soup kitchen in my neighbourhood.
- 2 I had the opportunity to do some _____ on a farm in South Africa a few years ago.
- 3 I think that _____ a volunteer is more about helping others than doing something for yourself.
- 4 If only I could _____ to do more volunteering.
- 5 Volunteering allows you to _____ as an individual.

volunteering

volunteer

grow

becoming

afford



Put the words in the correct order

1

in a

to travel

that

I would

project

get involved

allows me

rather



2



get fed

fortunate people

soup kitchen

community

at our

Some of the less

can

in our



Write about your volunteering experience

Write a few lines about a volunteering experience that you've had. In the case that you haven't yet experienced being a volunteer, write about the ways in which you think you can help people.

I have never experienced being a volunteer. However, if I ever have the opportunity to do that kind of work, I would...







Unpleasant volunteer work

Have you ever had an unpleasant volunteering experience? What types of volunteer work would you avoid doing?



Answer key

P.5:

1. Margherita is about to start volunteering at a soup kitchen in Leeds.
2. Simone says that volunteering isn't her thing – she would never work for free.

P.6:

3. Simone was working on a farm in Turkey.
4. Jane is Margherita's friend. Margherita mentions her because Jane also worked at the soup kitchen.

P.7:

1. (d) 2. (b) 3. (e) 4. (c) 5. (a)

Additional practice

P. 19

1. volunteer, 2. volunteering, 3. becoming, 4. afford 5. grow.

P. 20

1. I would rather get involved in a project that allows me to travel,
2. Some of the less fortunate people in our community can get fed at our soup kitchen.



Summary

Vocabulary items related to volunteering: to become a volunteer, a project, physical work, in exchange for something, soup kitchen, to feed, voluntourism.

Real-life language: to work for free, to give back to the community, to get involved in/with something, to be worth doing something.

Practice: talking about personal volunteering experiences and about volunteering in general.



Vocabulary

to volunteer

soup kitchen

to give back to the community

to work for free

to get involved in/with something

a project

to have an opportunity to do something

physical work

in exchange for something

to afford to do something

to be worth doing something

personal growth

voluntourism

to feed/get fed



Notes

