

1 Blended or portmanteau words

Activity A

Blended or portmanteau words are new words created by combining two existing words. Match each of the words below with a definition.

bromance chillax ~~docuseap~~ edutainment greenwash guesstimate
~~mockney~~ sitcom staycation workaholic

- an attempt to calculate something that is based more on guessing than on information _____
- to ~~take it easy~~ and stop feeling angry or worried _____
- a regular programme on TV that shows the same characters in different ~~amusing~~ situations _____
- ~~a way of speaking English by educated people which copies the words and sounds of working-class London speech~~ _____
- computer software, TV programmes and books that both teach something and are fun _____
- activities by a company or an organization that are intended to make people think that it is concerned about the environment, even if its real business actually harms the environment _____
- ~~a television programme about the lives of real people, presented as entertainment~~ _____
- ~~an extremely~~ close friendship between two men _____
- a person who ~~loves their job and spends most of their time doing it~~ _____
- a holiday that you spend at or near your home _____

Activity B

Discuss the questions with a partner.

- What standard words do you think have been combined to form each of the words in A?
- Do you use any portmanteau words in your language? If so, tell your partner about three of them.

Activity C

Complete each sentence with a word from A.

- The Prime Minister starts speaking _____ ~~when he meets ordinary people – it's ridiculous~~ _____
- The theatre group describes its productions for schools as _____, as they aim to make children think about deep topics as well as being great fun to watch.
- As a _____, I'd say the company has around 10,000 employees worldwide.
- My sister's a complete _____ – she gets to the office an hour before everyone else, and she doesn't get home till about nine.
- Environmentalists claim the government's new limits on fishing will have no beneficial effect on marine life, and are in fact just _____.
- The _____ between their husbands was starting to annoy Bev and Tina – the men spent most of their free time together.
- I'm watching this _____ ~~that follows the day-to-day life of a London school – it's much more entertaining than fiction!~~ _____
- There are lots of things you can do at home on a _____ that you can't do on an expensive trip abroad.
- Dad's Army* was a popular and very funny _____ set in the Second World War, which featured a group of veteran soldiers.
- I work really hard during the week, so at the weekend I just like to _____.