**6a Page 70 READING TEXT**

Upper Intermediate Student’s Book

Life

Staycations

You probably don’t like the term ‘staycation’. Me neither. But you mustn’t be put off. As a concept, it is quite attractive. Perhaps you’ve already had one, but weren’t aware that’s what it was called. Staycations don’t just mean staying in doing things around the house or just relaxing at home. They involve getting out more by taking day trips from your home to see local sights. If you don’t want to stay at home, you can holiday locally – for example, camping at a local campsite.

Staycations originally became popular after the financial crisis of 2008, when people were looking for ways to cut back on their spending. Apart from the savings, let’s not ignore the other benefits: you don’t have any of the problems associated with travel, such as packing, long drives, delays at airports and so on; and you bring money to the local economy, by eating out, for example. The only people who hope this kind of holiday won’t catch on are the holiday companies themselves.

Some staycationers who base themselves at home like to follow a set of rules, such as setting a start and end date, planning their activities ahead of time and avoiding routine. You don’t have to do these things, but it helps to create the feel of a traditional vacation. Others, aware that an extra barbecue and a visit to the local zoo may not match the thrill of foreign travel, take it a step further. A recent example was Karen Ash, whose story appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*.

A resident of New York, Karen Ash decided not to go to Japan, as she had originally planned, but instead took a weeklong Japanese vacation in her own city. This included buying postcards and souvenirs at a Japanese market, admiring bonsai plants, eating ramen (and even speaking Japanese when ordering), all without leaving New York. Her itinerary also involved joining in at a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, attending a taiko drumming concert and watching Japanese soap operas on DVD. I don’t think many people would want to take this much trouble to create their staycation, but you get the idea!

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