

# THE WEEKEND — TRANSCRIPT AND NOTES

## DIALOGUE

**Dave:** Hi<sup>1</sup> Bob.

**Bob:** Hi Dave.

**Dave:** How was your weekend?

**Bob:** It was great, actually<sup>2</sup>.

**Dave:** Oh, what did you do<sup>3</sup>?

**Bob:** On Saturday we had<sup>4</sup> a barbecue and yesterday we went<sup>5</sup> to the beach.

**Dave:** Yes, the weather was fantastic, wasn't it<sup>6</sup>?

**Bob:** How about you<sup>7</sup>?

**Dave:** Well, I spent<sup>8</sup> most of the weekend working in the garden.

**Bob:** You must<sup>9</sup> be really tired then.

**Dave:** Yes, I must have<sup>10</sup> dug<sup>11</sup> about twenty holes. To be honest, I'm glad<sup>12</sup> to be back at work. It's a lot more relaxing!

## LISTENING

The week used to<sup>13</sup> consist of weekdays and Sunday, but it now consists of weekdays and the weekend. This innovation occurred in Britain in the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Throughout<sup>14</sup> the eighteenth century the working week ended on Saturday evening; Sunday was the weekly day off<sup>15</sup>. Once a day of rest, Sunday has become a day for shopping, sports, and chores<sup>16</sup> around the house.

For most of us life assumes a different rhythm<sup>17</sup> at the weekend<sup>18</sup>; we sleep in, cut the grass, wash the car. We also go to the movies. We travel. And of course we exercise and play games. Some of these pastimes, like tennis, have an old history; others, like whitewater canoeing, windsurfing, and hang-gliding<sup>19</sup>, are more recent.

Ask most people to name the first day of the week and they will answer "Monday". Fifty years ago<sup>20</sup> the answer would have been<sup>21</sup> Sunday. Wall calendars still<sup>22</sup> show Sunday as the first day of the week, and children are taught<sup>23</sup> the days of the week starting with Sunday, but how long<sup>24</sup> will these conventions last?

## QUESTIONS

- What did you do last weekend?
- How do you usually spend your weekends?
- Which day do you prefer: Saturday or Sunday, and why?
- What are your plans for next weekend?
- What's your opinion about shops opening on Sunday?

## LANGUAGE NOTES

1. **Hi** is an informal way of greeting someone. Originally American, it's gradually replacing 'hello' in Britain.
2. **Actually** is a notorious 'false friend', and never means 'in the present time'. In this instance, it is used for emphasis.
3. In this question, the verb 'to do' is used both as an auxiliary verb ('did') and as a main verb ('do').
4. The verb 'to have' (**had** is the irregular past tense) is often used with the meaning of 'to do something'.  
• *We had a picnic on Sunday.* • *We had lunch in the garden.*
5. **Went** is the irregular past tense of the verb 'to go'.
6. **Wasn't it?** is an example of a tag question. These are commonly used in English to ask for agreement or confirmation: *It's hot today, isn't it?*
7. **How about you?** is a very useful expression, and can be used whenever you want to get someone's opinion about something you've just said: *I'm voting Labour. How about you?*
8. **Spent** is the irregular past tense of the verb 'to spend'. You can spend time or money. Note that it's followed by a gerund (verb form ending in -ing): *I spent ages looking for my keys.*
9. We use **must** when we feel sure that something is true because there's very strong evidence: *He must live near here because he comes to work on foot.*
10. **Must have** + past participle is used to express something that the speaker has deduced or is certain about in relation to the past. For example, if you wake up in the morning and you see the ground is wet outside, you might say: 'It must have rained overnight'.
11. **Dug** is the past participle of the irregular verb 'to dig'.
12. **Glad** means the same as 'happy' or 'pleased': *I'm glad it's stopped raining at last.*
13. **Used to** is used to describe past habits or long-lasting actions and situations which are now finished: *People used to think the sun revolved around the earth.*
14. **Throughout** /i /θru: 'aʊt/ is a combination of 'through' + 'out', and means 'during the whole of a period of time or an event': *House prices continued to rise throughout the 1980s.*
15. A **day off** is a day when you don't work: *I had two days off last week to go to my sister's wedding.*
16. A **chore** is an unpleasant, boring, or difficult thing that must be done: *Cleaning the oven is a real chore.*
17. **Rhythm** is a difficult word to spell and pronounce. The phonetic transcription is /'rɪðəm/, but if that means nothing to you, it sounds like 'ri-thum'.
18. In American English 'on the weekend' is the standard usage: *What did you do on the weekend?*
19. A lot of sporting activities in English end in -ing: *running, boxing, skating, swimming, diving, climbing, sailing, skiing, etc.*
20. Note the word order. **Ago** comes *after* a time expression: *a long time ago, five years ago, etc.*
21. **Would have been** is the past conditional tense. The 'if' clause is understood: *If you had asked someone fifty years ago ...*
22. **Still** is used for emphasizing that a particular situation has not completely ended or changed: *Some people still think the moon landings were faked.*
23. **Taught** is the past participle of the irregular verb 'to teach'. Here the sentence is passive.
24. **How long** is used to ask questions about amounts or periods of time: *How long have you been waiting?*



# THE WEEKEND — WORKSHEET

## A. MATCH THE WORDS WITH THE ACTIVITIES

horse-riding    running    rafting    skating    dancing    hang-gliding    cycling    surfing  
 swimming    windsurfing    skydiving    climbing    hiking    gardening    relaxing    canoeing



B. CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

The week (1) *uses/used* to consist of weekdays and Sunday, but it now consists of weekdays and the weekend. This innovation occurred in Britain (2) *in/at* the third quarter of the nineteenth century. (3) *Along/Throughout* the eighteenth century the working week ended (4) *in/on* Saturday evening; Sunday was the weekly day (5) *off/out*. Once a day of rest, Sunday (6) *is/has* become a day for shopping, sports, and chores (7) *into/around* the house.

For most of us life assumes a different rhythm at the weekend; we sleep (8) *up/in*, cut the grass, wash the car. We also go to the (9) *movie/movies*. We travel. And of course we exercise and play games. Some of these pastimes, like tennis, have an old history; (10) *other/others*, like whitewater canoeing, windsurfing, and hang-gliding, are more (11) *recent/recently*.

Ask most people to (12) *tell/name* the first day of the week and they will answer "Monday". Fifty years (13) *since/ago* the answer would have (14) *be/been* Sunday. Wall calendars (15) *yet/still* show Sunday as the first day of the week, and children are (16) *taught/teaching* the days of the week starting with Sunday, but how long will these conventions last?

ANSWER KEY

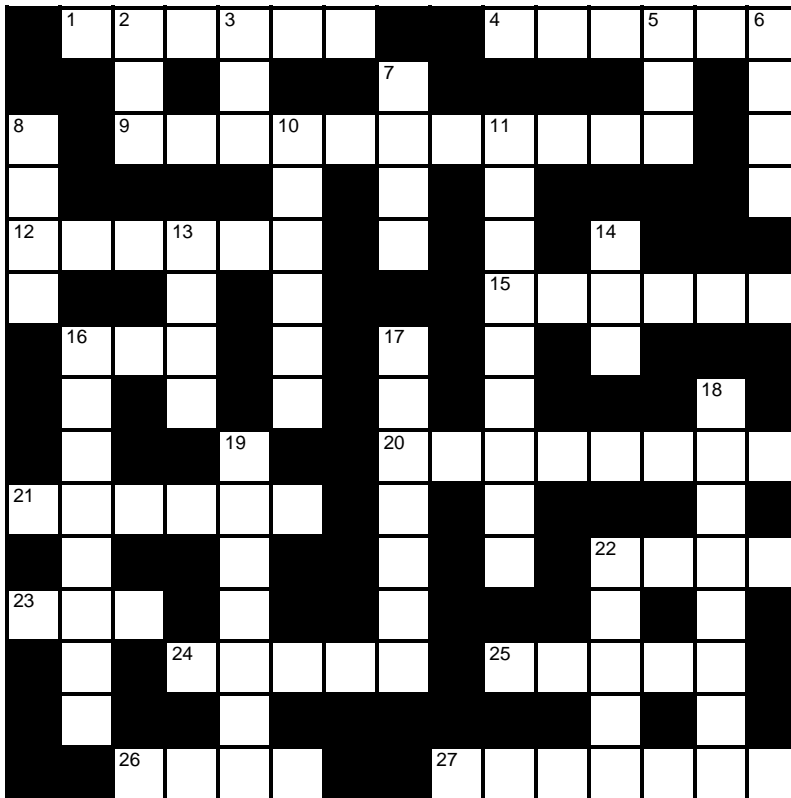
A. MATCH THE WORDS AND ACTIVITIES

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. dancing      | 9. skydiving     |
| 2. swimming     | 10. cycling      |
| 3. relaxing     | 11. hiking       |
| 4. gardening    | 12. canoeing     |
| 5. skating      | 13. rafting      |
| 6. surfing      | 14. windsurfing  |
| 7. horse-riding | 15. hang-gliding |
| 8. climbing     | 16. running      |

B. CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

- |               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| 1. used       | 9. movies  |
| 2. in         | 10. others |
| 3. Throughout | 11. recent |
| 4. on         | 12. name   |
| 5. off        | 13. ago    |
| 6. has        | 14. been   |
| 7. around     | 15. still  |
| 8. in         | 16. taught |

# THE WEEKEND — CROSSWORD



Web Version

**Across**

- 1 Christians traditionally go here on Sunday (6)
- 4 The day after Sunday (6)
- 9 Water sport (11)
- 12 A day off for most people (6)
- 15 Weekend activity (6)
- 16 I went for a long \_\_\_\_ at the weekend (3)
- 20 The day before Sunday (8)

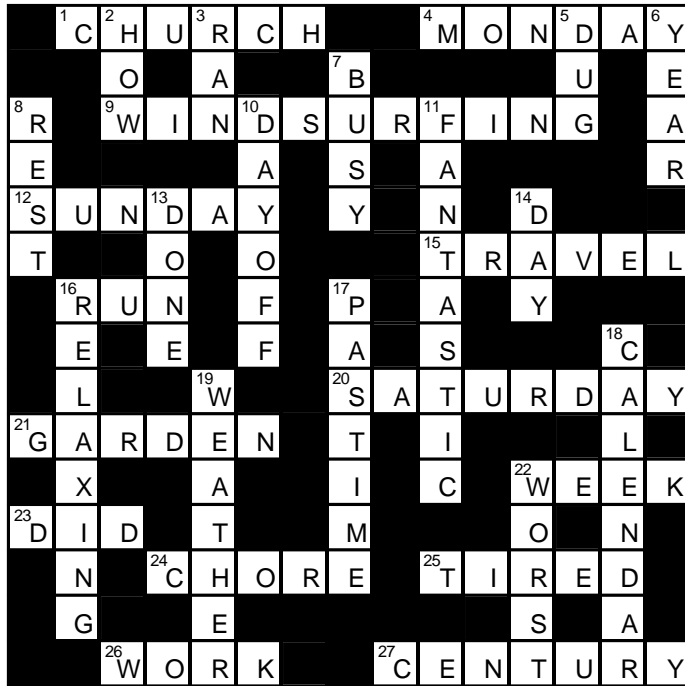
- 21 The American word is 'yard' (6)
- 22 Seven days (4)
- 23 What \_\_\_\_ you do at the weekend? (3)
- 24 Household task (5)
- 25 Needing rest or sleep (5)
- 26 What most people do during the week (4)
- 27 The weekend was invented in the 19th \_\_\_\_ (7)

**Down**

- 2 \_\_\_\_ was your weekend? (3)
- 3 I \_\_\_\_ a marathon on Sunday (3)
- 5 I must have \_\_\_\_ 20 holes (3)
- 6 365 days (4)
- 7 When you have a lot of things to do (4)
- 8 Sunday is traditionally a day of \_\_\_\_ (4)
- 10 A non-working day (3,3)
- 11 Great (9)

- 13 I got all my work \_\_\_\_ before the weekend (4)
- 14 24 hours (3)
- 16 Activity that makes you less tired (8)
- 17 Activity done for enjoyment (7)
- 18 Year chart (8)
- 19 It can make or ruin your weekend! (7)
- 22 That was my \_\_\_\_ weekend ever! (5)

SOLUTION



## THE WEEKEND — WORD SEARCH



Web Version

Calendar

Canoeing

Century

Chore

Day off

Dug

Fantastic

Garden

Hang-gliding

Hole

Monday

Pastime

Relaxing

Rest

Saturday

Shopping

Sunday

Tired

Travel

Weather

Weekday

Weekend

Windsurfing

Work

Yesterday

**SOLUTION**

