**Vacations**

**49% of Americans do not plan on taking a vacation this summer. Of those who are not going, 50% say they can't afford a summer getaway. 25% cite "family duty." 22% can't take time off work. *(Bankrate, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 22, 2018 )***

**A third of Americans don't take all the vacation days coming to them, according to a survey by Harris Interactive and the travel site Expedia. The average worker earned 14 days last year, and forfeited four of them. *(CNNmoney.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 9, 2006)***

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**In the 1980s, 80 percent of American workers took an annual vacation of at least one week. In 2014, just 56 percent did. Today, the average American is entitled to 14 vacation days, yet uses only 10 each year. *(Vox.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 19, 2015)***

**Pastor Wilbur is thinking of taking the word "vacation" out of Vacation Bible School. *(The Lutheran Witness cartoon)***

**Boss to office staff: "I'm back. Did everyone enjoy my vacation?" *(Lepper, King Features)***

**A survey by the Society for Human Resource Management found that 9 percent of employers allow workers to cash out their unused vacation time. Five percent of employers also let employees buy extra vacation days through payroll deductions, and 7 percent permit workers to donate unused vacation time to a shared pool that colleagues can use. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 21, 2013)***

**Fewer than one in 10 executives and employees achieves "complete relaxation" while on vacation, while 58 percent achieve no stress relief and 27 percent report feeling more stressed when vacations end than when they begin. *(CSMonitor.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 7, 2013)***

**Always, it seems, the beach is just beyond the horizon. Americans -- in a perpetual vacation deficit as compared with Europeans and Canadians -- say they'll take less vacation this year than in 2003, according to a spring survey by Harris Interactive for Expedia.com. *(Kelly Pate Dwyer, in The Denver Post, June 28, 2004)***

**How to take a "digital detox": If you really want to relax this summer, try to "vacation like it's 1999," said Nick Hilton in The New York Times. Once upon a time, we could hit the beach with a paperback and let the stress of the world float away. Now we're spending most of our time off fussing over how many Instagram and Facebook likes our beach photos are attracting, or worse, answering endless work emails up in the hotel room. The obvious remedy is to leave the tablet and phone at home, but that feels increasingly nonrealistic; "our devices have replaced some vacation essentials," like books, maps, cameras, and music players. The good news is, "there are ways to unplug that don't require downgrading to a CD player." Try putting your phone into airplane mode the moment your vacation begins. You can still take photos and listen to tunes but can't connect to the web, so you won't "get sucked into the black hole of wasting time." If colleagues really need to reach you, they can pick up the phone and call your room. *(The Week magazine, August 21, 2015)***

**Despite all the talk about the speed of supersonic transports, no engineer has ever been able to concoct anything that can go faster than a vacation. *(Roger Allen, in Grand Rapids Press)***

**Microsoft still takes no breaks: Bill Gates, 63, still doesn't believe in vacations, said Connie Loizos in TechCrunch.com. Gates' "hard-core," vacation-free approach in Microsoft's early years is legendary; you might imagine that over the years he'd have tempered his views. Not so. Asked at a conference whether he'd come to believe in taking breaks, Gates said he had not -- and certainly "not in a company's earliest years." Working without a vacation is just one of the sacrifices a company has to make in its early years. Gates' biggest regret, it turns out, was not working harder, "taking his eyes off the ball and allowing Google to develop Android" and create the leading phone operating system. That, says Gates, "was a natural thing for Microsoft to win." *(The Week magazine, July 5 / July 12, 2019)***

**A St. Louis airline reservation agent at a local travel agency was using high-pressure salesmanship on a vigorous old lady who was taking a vacation trip to New Orleans, trying very hard to sell her an expensive airline ticket. "Do you mean to say that it takes less than four hours to get all the way to New Orleans?" she inquired. "Yes," the salesman replied, pointing to a schedule. "We can get you there in only three hours and 55 minutes." "I don't know," said the lady. "I guess I'd rather take a train." "But look at the time you'd save by flying," the agent protested. "Young man," the old lady replied with a confident air, "I've been saving time since I was a young woman. Now," she said, turning to leave," I intend to use some of it." *(Ernest Blevins, in Catholic Digest)***

**No man needs a vacation so much as the man who has just had one. *(Elbert Hubbard, writer)***

**A vacation is having nothing to do and all day to do it in. *(Robert Orben)***

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**In 1975, the average American vacation lasted more than a week, according to the U.S. Travel Association. By 1985, it had shrunk to 5.4 days, and by 2010 to 3.8 days. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, August 1, 2014)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**The day after the 9/11 report came out saying we do not have the luxury of time, Congress left for a six-week vacation. Great timing, guys! And you wonder what the problem is. *(Jay Leno, 2004)***

**Here's a marvelous, economical idea for a vacation trip: Climb into a hammock and let your mind wander. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Good week for: The good olde days, after a Boston University study found that medieval peasants in 13th-century Europe typically took 150 days off from work per year to celebrate holidays and other festivals. In 2015, the average American had just 16.2 vacation days. *(The Week magazine, November 18, 2016)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**U.S. workers need a vacation. More than 135 million Americans, or about 56 percent of American adults, haven't taken a week off work to travel in the past 12 months, according to a survey by insurance company Allianz Global Assistance. *(Los Angeles Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, August 28, 2015)***

**People who do the least work usually need the most vacations. *(Bits & Pieces)***

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**An oxymoron is defined as “a common phrase made up of two words that appear to be contradictory.” Examples include pretty ugly, friendly takeover, jumbo shrimp, tax return, working vacation, sweet sorrow, somewhat addictive, student teacher, and random order. *(Kathy Wolfe, in Tidbits)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**President Obama took 131 vacation days in his first term. In his two terms, President George W. Bush took 1,060 vacation days. *(Salon.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 12, 2013)***

**Since taking office, President Obama -- who prefers the golf course to the woods -- has visited the presidential country retreat at Camp David only 35 times, spanning 86 days. At this point in his presidency, George W, Bush had visited Camp David 119 times, covering 375 days. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 3, 2015)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**America's vacation aversion: Let's "stop vacation shaming our presidents," said Akbar Shahid Ahmed. Every president in recent decades has been attacked by the opposition for taking time away from the White House. Ronald Reagan was accused of being a lollygagger for spending time at his California ranch, riding horses; George W. Bush was pilloried for the weeks he spent clearing brush and riding mountain bikes in Texas; and Bill Clinton and Barach Obama were scorned for their summer downtime on that playground of the elites, Martha's Vineyard. But presidents have brutally stressful jobs, and as former Bush speechwriter David Frum once observed, "A tense, edgy, unhappy, and overtired president is good for nobody." Americans, however, have been socialized by employers and a work-obsessed culture into thinking that "time off is time wasted." The average U.S. worker even leaves an average of nine vacation days on the table, a 2012 study found. That's nuts --and so is resenting presidential downtime. Americans "struggling with their own stress" should give presidents a break. Their well-being -- and yours -- "depends on the occasional opportunity to disconnect from the job -- and then return to work refreshed." *(The Week magazine, August 15, 2014)***

**The man who first said "spend" your vacation never knew how right he was. *(Dodge County, Wisconsin, Independent News)***

**The stress of so much vacation time: December is upon us, and that means Germans must start scrambling to use up all their vacation, said Julia Bonisch in the Munich Suddeutsche Zeitung. Every one of the 30 days allotted to the typical German worker in 2007 must be taken by March 2008 -- or else forfeited. For at least half of us, this is not a problem. Germans, after all, "see vacation as a kind of duty: The worker must take time off to rest or he won't perform at his peak efficiency." Yet there are always plenty of people who taunt the rest of us with their complaints that they still have two and a half weeks stockpiled and no idea when or how to use them. Are these workaholics afraid of flying? Or do they simply find the company of their colleagues, in a quiet and well-run office, preferable to that of a "petulant spouse and two hyperactive children in some tourist bunker on Mallorca?" Either way, Ge4rman employers will have to do something to get them the rest they have earned. How about a new plan: "Send the boss on a nice, long holiday. For most workers, that would have the same effect as a two-week stay in a luxury spa." *(The Week magazine, December 14, 2007)***

**A student at work on his true vacation becomes creative and passionate. A professional whose work comes out of his very soul should almost have to pay instead of being paid for doing that which fills his life with light. Doing things out of obligation, no matter how much effort you put into it, will always be like dragging a ball and chain. Because of this, every man should struggle to love what he does when he cannot do what he loves. *(J. L. Martin Descalzo, in Blanco y Negro)***

**Every vacation has at least two good days of weather – the day you leave and the day you get back. *(Bits & Pieces)***

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**A new survey says Americans will leave an average of nine paid vacation days unused this year. That's partly because they worry that "their losses will think they're lazy or that their job could get eliminated while they're away." But skipping vacations has a cost: Women who don't take them are two to eight times more likely to suffer from depression, while for men the risk of heart attack rises by a third. *(Marketplace.org, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 19, 2013)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**One wonderful thing about a vacation is that it makes you feel good enough to go back to work and poor enough so that you have to. *(James A. Nix)***

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