

Man quits job to become full-time Pokémon hunter

Level 3 • Advanced

1 Warmer

Choose the correct answers.

1. Pokémon Go is ...
 - a. ... an online gambling game in which some people have lost all their savings.
 - b. ... an app in which gamers compete to capture animated characters using their mobile phones.
 - c. ... a hit Japanese board game for children which is also popular with adults.
2. Pokémon is short for ...
 - a. ... poker money.
 - b. ... pocket money.
 - c. ... pocket monster.

2 Key words

Find the key words in the article and write them next to the definitions below.

1. a person from New Zealand _____ (para 2)
2. start a journey _____ (two words, para 2)
3. captured; caught _____ (para 4)
4. living somewhere _____ (para 4)
5. making you feel extremely happy, excited and full of energy _____ (para 6)
6. sometimes _____ (two words, para 6)
7. with a lot of noise or activity _____ (para 8)
8. tell somebody about something that may affect them _____ (para 8)
9. someone, especially a young person without much money, who travels around on foot or public transport, often carrying items in a bag on his back _____ (para 9)
10. large rooms where lots of people sleep _____ (para 9)
11. made an offer _____ (para 10)
12. support _____ (para 12)

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Pokémon Go: man quits job to become full-time Pokémon hunter

Tom Currie says he will spend two months travelling around New Zealand to capture all the Pokémon released for the game

Eleanor Ainge Roy

15 July, 2016

- 1 New Zealander Tom Currie has become a full-time Pokémon hunter. Each morning, he fills a flask with coffee, packs a rain jacket, puts his lunch in his rucksack and heads into the wilderness to hunt Pokémon – come rain or shine.
- 2 The 24-year-old Kiwi has just left his job in Auckland to embark on a two-month tour of New Zealand, with the aim of capturing all of the Pokémon just released on smartphone game Pokémon Go.
- 3 Currie has booked 20 bus trips around New Zealand and, in less than a week, has already visited six South Island towns – and caught Pokémon at every stop. So far, he has captured 90 of the 151 Pokémon released on the game.
- 4 In the Kaikoura Ranges on the east coast of the South Island, Currie captured Dragonair, Scyther and Jynx. And, in the rough seas off the wild west coast, he seized water-dwelling Goldeen.
- 5 “I wanted to have an adventure,” Currie said. “I have been working for six years and I was desperate for a break. And Pokémon gave me the chance to live that dream.”
- 6 A week in and Currie’s adventure is both exhilarating and exhausting. On occasion, he has hunted till 3am and he says he sleeps deeply now because of the “miles and miles” he walks each day.
- 7 “I think the most exciting experience so far was in Christchurch, which has become a hotspot for Pokémon hunters,” Currie said.
- 8 “There were about 100 people there hunting. And some of these people would usually be shut up at home and really reclusive. Hunting for Pokémon is bringing them into the real world. It was such a buzzy atmosphere – when someone spotted a rare Pokémon, they would shout out to alert the crowd.”
- 9 Currie’s journey so far has been done on the cheap, sleeping on friends’ sofas or in crowded backpacker dorms.
- 10 But his trip has piqued the nation’s interest and he has been approached by various transport companies, offering to take him to remote parts of the country to hunt for rare Pokémon.
- 11 Currie has also received messages of support from around the world, including Ireland, India, Canada and the US.
- 12 “Tom is a very spur-of-the-moment, independent kid. He always has been,” said his mother, Tania Dobbs. “His nana and I don’t understand the game but I remember him loving it in his childhood. I am just glad he is out enjoying his life and seeing so much of New Zealand. I back him 100%.”

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3 Comprehension check

Answer the questions using information from the article.

1. What age and nationality is Tom Currie?
2. Where was Tom Currie working before he left his job?
3. How long does he plan to travel around New Zealand?
4. How is he travelling around the country?
5. Where is he staying while he is travelling?
6. In which mountains did he capture three Pokémon figures?
7. In which city did he meet many other hunters?
8. Is this the first time Tom Currie has played Pokémon?

4 Expressions

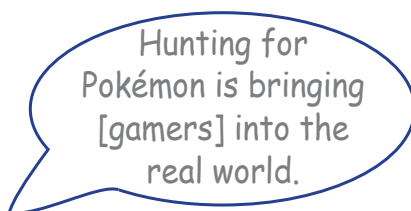
a. Find the following expressions in the article.

1. whatever the weather (four words)
2. really wanting to do something different (four words)
3. do what you have always wanted to do (three words)
4. a popular place where people gather (one word)
5. staying in your house (four words)
6. a way of doing something in which you spend as little money as possible (three words)
7. make someone want to know more about something (three words)
8. sudden and not planned or thought about carefully (four words)

b. Use the expressions in sentences of your own.

5 Discussion

- Read the quote from Tom Currie and discuss the question below.



- What are the advantages and disadvantages of getting players of computer games outside in this way?

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6 An interview

- a. Read the article again and prepare ten interview questions for Tom Currie.
- b. Role-play the interview by asking your partner your questions. Then, swap roles and let them ask you their questions.
- c. Write up the interview for a magazine with your partner in the role of Currie. Include an introductory section about Tom Currie and Pokémon Go.

7 Extra reading

Read these two additional articles to find out more about the Pokémon Go craze.

Pokémon Go becomes global craze as game overtakes Twitter for US users www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/jul/12/pokemon-go-becomes-global-phenomenon-as-number-of-us-users-overtakes-twitter

The joys of Pokémon Go: exercise, the outdoors and 'full-on escapism' www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/jul/12/pokemon-go-exercise-outdoors-escapism

8 An online quiz

There have been many and varying news stories about Pokémon Go. In this quiz, you decide which stories are true and which are false.

Pokémon Go quiz – can you catch the fake news story? www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/jul/24/pokemon-go-quiz-can-you-catch-the-fake-news-story

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KEY

1 Warmer

1. b
2. c

2 Key words

1. Kiwi
2. embark on
3. seized
4. dwelling
5. exhilarating
6. on occasion
7. buzzy
8. alert
9. backpacker
10. dorms
11. approached
12. back

3 Comprehension check

1. He's a 24-year-old New Zealander.
2. Auckland
3. two months
4. on foot and using public transport, especially buses
5. on friends' sofas or in crowded backpacker dorms
6. in the Kaikoura Ranges on the east coast of the South Island
7. Christchurch
8. No. His mother says she remembers him loving it in his childhood.

4 Expressions

1. come rain or shine
2. desperate for a break
3. live that dream
4. hotspot
5. shut up at home
6. on the cheap
7. pique someone's interest
8. spur of the moment