



## Pre-Reading Activities

### A: What Kind Of Person Are You?

1. Choose the statements below that describe you.  (You may choose more than one statement.) The words in **bold** type are from today's article. (Use a dictionary if necessary.)

#### Preferences

- a. A dinner at a **five-star** restaurant is a special treat for me.
- b. I love visiting museums if I have time.
- c. Shopping for things like clothes relaxes me.
- d. Getting a good night's sleep is very important to me.
- e. If I take a long bath or shower, I **barricade** the door or make sure it is locked so no-one can bother me.

#### Trips And Vacations

- a. Reading maps and preparing an **itinerary** are things I do before I go on any trip.
- b. When I go on vacation, I always bring back **souvenirs** for my family and friends.
- c. Meeting new people and seeing new places is very **stimulating**.

#### Work Choices

- a. If I had a choice, I'd prefer a job offering me interstate or overseas travel.
- b. I would much rather have a job that allows me to spend all my free time with my family.

#### Personality

- a. I think I am a **well-rounded** individual.
- b. **Juggling** work (or study) and home responsibilities is a challenge I enjoy.
- c. As a child, I was prone to **separation anxiety** if one of my parents left me in the care of someone else.
- d. I always try to think of the needs of my family and friends even when I'm **exhausted**.
- e. I am a flexible person and take changes **in my stride**. They don't worry me.

2. Now compare your answers in pairs.

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## Reading Activities

### A: Choose The Best Headline

Read today's article which is on the next page and then choose the best headline for it from the list below.

1. **New Places and Faces Stimulating For Working Women**
2. **Psychology Study finds Well-educated Mothers More Attuned to Children**
3. **Professional Traveling Mothers Say Children Don't Miss Them**
4. **Emotional Tradeoff for Traveling Moms**
5. **Traveling Mothers Enjoy A Good Night's Sleep**



# Away on Business:

BY GUNNA DICKSON

NEW YORK Sat Feb 7 (Reuters) - An out-of-town trip may be one of the rare times a working mother can take a leisurely bath without barricading the door.

Spa treatments, museum crawls and five-star dinners satisfy guilty pleasures she can't enjoy at home while new places and new faces stimulate her mind.

Yet, underlying it all is a tough emotional decision every traveling mom faces: will choosing a sweet deal over sticky kisses damage her relationship with her children, as some studies show.

An American Psychological Association study published in the journal *Developmental Psychology*, however, found that "a mother's level of education is a strong predictor" for her "being sensitively attuned" to her children.

Indeed, many professional moms say their children are actually more well-rounded individuals and less prone to separation anxiety because they keep them involved in their travel plans.

"If mothers have started a protocol of going to work every day, research seems to show there is no effect," said Dr. Jeffrey Fagen, a psychology professor at St. John's University in New York.

As Tara Innes juggles her work responsibilities, making sure her 8-year-old son, Will, doesn't feel left out, is a priority for the managing director at Fitch Ratings in New York, who spends 20 percent of her time traveling to major U.S. cities.

"I have always traveled, and I think Will is accustomed to it," Innes said. "He probably learned the major cities in America before other children his age. He also learned dates and the days of the week" by reading a map and detailed itineraries.

"I get a lot of work done, and I love getting a good night's sleep, something I don't always get at home," said Innes, whose job routinely takes her to Los Angeles, Denver, Dallas, Boston, Chicago and Washington. "But overwhelmingly, I miss my family."

## Duty First

For Julie Wagner of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve and mother of two, duty comes first.

"My children were born into the Army and are used to my traveling," said Wagner, who will go to South Korea in March for 17 days of training. All along, she has helped Zachary and Allison, now 15 and 12, deal with the separations by putting up a map and talking with them about her next destination. She also never misses the opportunity to bring back souvenirs -- T-shirts for Allison and coins for Zachary to add to his collection. Wagner's day-to-day job, as a nonuniformed school resource officer for the Johnstown Police Department, also requires her to travel, but the trips are often nearby and shorter.

"If it's military, it could be for two to three weeks. With the police job, two days to a week," said Wagner who travels four or five times a year, mostly for training and conferences.

"When the kids were small, it wasn't so bad," she said. "Now that they're older, I miss them more because of their activities. Even if I'm exhausted, I call home to see how the saxophone or guitar lessons went. Allison is a great goalie on her soccer team."

"Wherever I am, I relax by going shopping -- mostly for them. It's fun to look for something special for the kids and for my husband. And, for once, the bathroom is all mine!"

Long-term deployment of up to a year looms as a possibility, but Wagner takes it in stride.

"We'll deal with it," she said. "It's my job."

"The key," says Dr. Fagen, "is that the child be in the care of a warm, caring adult who knows how to behave in an age-appropriate way toward the child. If the child feels secure and loved, there should be absolutely no problem."

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## B: Scanning

Read the article again and fill the gaps in the table below.

Name	Who they are	Information
1.	2.	Believes there is no problem with working mothers going away on business trips provided their children are being well cared for.
Tara Innes	3.	Believes her son is accustomed to her traveling, but still misses her family.
4.	First lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve, school resource officer for the Johnstown Police Department and mother of two.	5.
6.	7.	Are used to their mother traveling because of her army background.

## C: True, False Or Not Given

Decide whether the following statements are **true** **T**, **false** **F** or whether the article does **not give** **NG** this information.

1. Working mothers are usually able to enjoy leisurely baths at home without having to lock the door.
2. Working mothers may feel guilty about enjoying trips to the museum or spa when they are away on business trips.
3. Tara Innes thinks her son learnt his alphabet faster than other children his age, because she went on business trips.
4. Innes sometimes doesn't get a good night's sleep when she is at home.
5. Wagner's son, Zachary collects coins from different countries.
6. Wagner's daughter, Allison, wants her mother to be home more often to watch her play soccer.
7. Wagner finds it more difficult to be away from her family now that her children are older.
8. Wagner is worried about being away from her family for a year.
9. Shopping is a relaxing hobby for women away on business trips.
10. Dr. Fagen believes that while their mothers are away, children need to be looked after by someone who makes them feel loved.

## D: Check Your Understanding

Explain the sentences from the article below using your own words.

1. "...underlying it all is a tough emotional decision every traveling mom faces: will choosing a sweet deal over sticky kisses damage her relationship with her children, as some studies show."
2. "...many professional moms say their children are actually more well-rounded individuals and less prone to separation anxiety because they keep them involved in their travel plans."
3. "And, for once, the bathroom is all mine!"
4. "Long-term deployment of up to a year looms as a possibility, but Wagner takes it in stride. "We'll deal with it," she said. "It's my job."

## Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

### A: Language

A **gerund** is an **-ing** form, e.g. *traveling*, *waving*.

*Traveling out of town may be difficult for some businesswomen with children.*

*It was sad **waving** goodbye to them at the airport when I left for Rome.*

In a negative statement, we use '**not**' before a gerund.

*By **not talking** about the children too often, I was able to avoid feeling too homesick.*

***Not being** able to kiss them each night before they went to bed was very difficult for me.*

Here are some examples of gerunds.

***Working** long hours and **being** tired on the weekend are two difficulties faced by executives.*

*No parent likes **being** away from his or her children for too long.*

*I love **getting** a good night's sleep.*

In the examples below, the gerund is the **subject**.

***Talking** with the children before a trip helped them to understand what was going to happen during my time away.*

*I believe **being** away from my family is a necessary evil.*

***E-mailing** and **phoning** are two things I do to stay in touch with my family.*

A gerund must be used after some **verbs**. Some of these are:

**admit, avoid, consider, dislike, enjoy, excuse, face, give up, involve, love, mention, miss, postpone, practice, put off, quit, risk, save, suggest**

*I **suggest phoning** at least twice a week and e-mailing as often as you can.*

*I really **enjoy coming** home after a trip away and seeing their happy faces.*

*I **dislike going** away for long periods of time.*



An **object and gerund** can be used **after some verbs**. These include:

**avoid, dislike, enjoy, excuse, hate, imagine, involve, like, love, mention, miss, prefer, remember, risk, save, stop**

*I **love** people **speaking** to me on my travels.*

*I **remember** her **arriving** home and **swinging** me up into her arms.*

A gerund always comes **after a preposition**. Some of these are:

**after, against, as a result of, because of, before, despite, in spite of, instead of, on, since, through, with, without**

*An out-of-town trip may be one of the rare times a working mother can take a leisurely bath **without barricading** the door.*

*All along, she has helped Zachary and Allison...deal with the separations by **putting** up a map and **talking** with them about her next destination.*

*Wherever I am, I relax by **going** shopping....*

A gerund must also come after a **verb + preposition, an adjective + preposition or a noun + preposition**.

*I believe in **encouraging** my executives to phone home whenever they feel it's necessary.*

*It's the idea of **telling** them I'll be away for a month that really worries me.*

*She's very excited about **seeing** her mom again after such a long trip.*

Complete the sentences below with a gerund and your own ideas.

1.  and meeting lots of interesting people were the best things about business travel.
2.  were some of the worst things.
3. Instead of  and lots of business travel, I chose to accept a lower paid job with no travel.
4. , she caught up on her paperwork and e-mailed the office with the latest sales figures.
5. While I'm away, I try to relax by .

Complete these sentences containing gerunds with your own ideas. You do not need to use a gerund in your answers.

6. He disliked his mother going on trips and...
7. Taking a leisurely bath may be one of the things a working mother...
8. Enjoying five-star dinners and museum visits are...
9. Feeling guilty about being away from home...
10. Juggling work and home responsibilities is...

## B: Same Or Different Game

Work in pairs. One of you is **Student A**, the other is **Student B**. Your teacher will give both of you a card with some sentences on it.

### Part One:

1. Student A reads aloud the sentences on their card to Student B at normal speed. (Before doing this, Student A should read them and practice saying them with another Student A.) Student B listens and decides whether each sentence is exactly the same or has differences.
2. Student A reads the sentences again at normal speed. Student B notes any differences between what they hear and what they read and writes the changes on their card. (Most sentences have more than one difference.)
3. Compare cards to check your answers.

**Part Two:** Repeat the process with Student B as the reader and Student A as the listener.

## C: Discussion

Answer these questions in pairs.

1. *Did either of your parents have to leave you to go on trips for work when you were young? If yes, how do you think it affected you?*
2. *Do you think most employers are supportive of employees with family responsibilities in your country? Why or why not?*
3. *What should parents do to help them make it easier for their children (e.g. send regular e-mails etc.) if they have to travel regularly?*



# TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

## Pre-Reading Activities

### A: What Kind Of Person Are You? - Notes

These statements introduce students to some of the vocabulary and ideas in today's article. Students do not need to agree with all of the statements. They may only agree with a few. They work through them on their own and then compare their answers in pairs. Ask the pairs to spend some time finding out more about each other, using the statements to do this. They can ask follow-up questions to elicit more detail from their partners.

## Reading Activities

### A: Choose The Best Headline - Answer

Headline 4 was the original headline of today's article.

*Headline 1 is imprecise as the article is about working mothers, not working women. Headlines 2, 4 are correct, but these summarize supporting ideas from the article, not the main idea. Headline 3 is inaccurate as the article stresses that it is the mothers who miss their children while these children suffer less from separation anxiety.*

### B: Scanning - Answers

1. Dr. Jeffrey Fagen,
2. psychology professor at St. John's University in New York,
3. managing director at Fitch Ratings in New York and mother of one,
4. Julie Wagner,
5. Always makes time to call her family but accepts the separation as being part of the job.
6. Zachary and Allison,
7. Wagner's children, aged 15 and 12.

### C: True, False Or Not Given - Answers

1. F, 2. T, 3. F, 4. T, 5. T, 6. NG, 7. T, 8. F, 9. NG, 10. T.

### D: Check Your Understanding - Sample Answers

1. Working mothers who travel face emotional pressure, as they have to decide whether a (potentially) enjoyable business trip will hurt their relationships with their children, a fact which some studies have revealed.
2. Working mothers believe that their children have more skills in different areas, and are less likely to feel anxious while their mothers are away, because they involve their children in their plans for traveling.
3. Wagner enjoys not having to share a bathroom with anyone on her travels.
4. Wagner may have to be away from her family for up to a year, but she isn't worried by this, as it is just part of her job.

## Post-Reading Activities

### A: Language - Notes

In sentences 6. - 10. students are presented with sentence beginnings containing gerunds. They do not need to use gerunds to complete the sentences. The sample answer sentences below are for your reference. Students will see these sentences in **Post-Reading Activity B**.

### A: Language - Sample Answers

1. **Seeing new places** and meeting lots of interesting people were the best things about business travel.
2. **Waiting in airports and feeling homesick** were some of the worst things.
3. Instead of **taking a job with a five-figure salary** and lots of business travel, I chose to accept a lower paid job with no travel.
4. **After phoning her kids**, she caught up on her paperwork and e-mailed the office with the latest sales figures.
5. While I'm away, I try to relax by **listening to music or watching a video in the hotel**.
6. He disliked his mother going on trips and **refused to hug her when she left for the airport**.
7. Taking a leisurely bath may be one of the things a working mother **can enjoy while she is on a business trip**.
8. Enjoying five-star dinners and museum visits are **other pleasures that are available to some women who usually wouldn't have time**.
9. Feeling guilty about being away from home is something that is common to **most working mothers who have to travel**.
10. Juggling work and home responsibilities is **something she is used to now**.

### B: Same Or Different Game - Notes

This is a two-part version of the popular Same or Different speaking game with a focus on listening carefully. Students are given the sentences they have already worked with in **Post-Reading Activity A**. They identify whether their sentences are the same or different and then find the specific differences.

1. Give students the Part 1. card below. All the Student As should work alone or in pairs with another Student A and practice their sentences so that they are reading them at normal speed with correct pronunciation and intonation. You may like to model them to the Student As, focusing particularly on connected speech, correct pronunciation and intonation. (While this is going on, the Student Bs are reading their 1. sentences through.)

Students then work in their pairs: one Student A and one Student B. Student B decides whether each of their sentences is the same as Student A's or is different. Make sure that Student A is reading the sentences at normal speed, and not too slowly.

2. Students read and listen again, but this time Student B listens and notes what the actual differences are. They alter their sentences so that they are exactly the same as Student A's. Then they compare answers by looking at their cards.

The process is then repeated with the Part Two cards with Student B as the reader and Student A as the listener. Remember to give Student Bs a chance to practice their sentences before working in their pairs with Student A.

### B: Same Or Different Game - Cards To Be Given To Students

These are on the next page.

### B: Same Or Different Game - Answers

**Part One:** 1a. different, b. same, c. different, d. different, e. same, f. different.

**Part Two:** 1g. different, h. different, i. different, j. different, k. same, l. different.



### Sentences For Student A To Read Aloud To Student B

#### Part One

- a. Seeing new places and meeting lots of interesting people were the best things about business travel.
- b. Waiting in an airport and feeling homesick were the worst things.
- c. Instead of taking a job with a five-figure salary and lots of business travel, I chose to accept a lower paid job with no travel.
- d. After phoning her kids, she caught up on her paperwork and e-mailed the office with the latest sales figures.
- e. An out-of-town trip may be one of the rare times a working mother can take a leisurely bath without barricading the door.
- f. While I'll be away, I'll try to relax by listening to music or watching a video in the hotel.

### Sentences For Student A To Listen To Student B Read Aloud

#### Part Two

- g. She dislikes his mother going on trips and refuses to hug her when she says goodbye.
- h. Talking with the children before a trip helped them to understand what was going to happen during my time away.
- i. Having a leisurely bath may be one thing a working woman enjoys while on a business trip.
- j. Enjoying a five-star dinner and museum visits are other pleasurable things available to some men who usually wouldn't have time.
- k. Feeling guilty about being away from home is something that is common to most working mothers who have to travel.
- l. Juggling work and home responsibilities is a thing she is now used to.

### Sentences For Student B To Listen To Student A Read Aloud

#### Part One

- a. Seeing new places and meeting a lot of interested people were the best things about business traveling.
- b. Waiting in an airport and feeling homesick were the worst things.
- c. Instead of trying a job with a four-figure salary and lots of business travel, I've chosen to accept a lower paid job with travel.
- d. After phoning her kid, she caught up on the paperwork and e-mailed her office with the latest sales figures.
- e. An out-of-town trip may be one of the rare times a working mother can take a leisurely bath without barricading the door.
- f. While I'm away, I try to relax by listening to pop music or watching videos at the hotel.

### Sentences For Student B To Read Aloud To Student A

#### Part Two

- g. He disliked his mother going on trips and refused to hug her when she left for the airport.
- h. Talking with the children before trips helps them to understand what's going to happen during my time away.
- i. Taking a leisurely bath may be one of the things a working mother can enjoy while she is on a business trip.
- j. Enjoying five-star dinners and museum visits are other pleasures that are available to some women who usually wouldn't have time.
- k. Feeling guilty about being away from home is something that is common to most working mothers who have to travel.
- l. Juggling work and home responsibilities is something she is now used to.