

This is not a word-for-word transcript

Neil

Hello and welcome to 6 Minute English. I'm Neil.

Catherine

Hi! And I'm Catherine.

Neil

Now, Catherine, when was the last time you went for a walk in the country for fun, for exercise or relaxation?

Catherine

People do that?

Neil

Well, believe it or not, they do.

Catherine

Interesting, people are strange.

Neil

Well, it sounds like you should pay close attention to today's programme because it's all about how fewer and fewer people are **venturing out** into the country.

Catherine

Well, I wonder if that word is part of the problem. To **venture out** somewhere suggests that it's a big challenge, or even a risky activity.

Neil

I don't think a walk in the country is a particularly dangerous activity, even in bad weather. It's not one of the reasons people gave in a recent survey for why they don't do it. In fact, one of the biggest reasons people gave was that it wouldn't look good on their social media.

Catherine

Well, of course, why would you go for a walk in the rain in the country if you couldn't get good snaps for your social media account?

Neil

Interesting you should say that because it's the topic of this week's quiz question. In the survey, what percentage of people gave the poor social media photo opportunity as their reason for not wanting to **venture out** into the countryside? Was it:

- a) Around 10%,
- b) around 30% or
- c) around 50%?

What do you think?

Catherine

To be honest, I don't think that would be a good excuse at all, so I'm going to say it's just 10%.

Neil

Listen out for the answer at the end of the programme. Annabel Shackleton is from an organisation called Leaf – Linking Environment and Farming. They want to encourage more people to visit the countryside. She recently appeared on the BBC's Farming Today radio programme. She gave her response to the survey we mentioned which revealed that many of us prefer to stay indoors. What does she say a quarter of people in the survey know and believe?

Annabel Shackleton

I can't believe that 4 in 10 **millennials** think they should spend more time in the countryside and a quarter of them know and believe that it's much better and easier to relax in the countryside but they're just not going out. It's **phenomenal**.

Catherine

She was talking about a group in the survey which she called **millennials**. This term refers to people who are young adults now, people who were born in the 1980s and 1990s. Are you a **millennial**, Neil?

Neil

No, I'm actually **Generation X**, the age group before **millennials**. We were born in the 1960s, 70s and early 80s. Shackleton said that a quarter of **millennials** know and believe that it's better and easier to relax in the country, but they just don't go.

Catherine

She thought it was **phenomenal**. Now this adjective means that something is incredible, unbelievable. It's often used for something that is positive, something that is very impressive or amazing.

Neil

In this case though she is using it to say how shocked and surprised she is that people know going out in the country is good and a great way to relax but they still don't do it. So what explanation does she have for this **phenomenal** behaviour. Here's Annabel Shackleton again.

Annabel Shackleton

There are just so many other **distractions** and it's just so easy for people to stay indoors. You know and they're using excuses like they haven't got the right clothing, it's not instagramable, would you believe it? And yes, it's **a shame**.

Catherine

She said that there are many other **distractions**. A **distraction** is something that takes your attention away from doing something. Usually we think of a **distraction** as something that delays us from doing something more important.

Neil

These days we have a lot of **distractions** or things that offer us easy entertainment. So it's very easy to come up with an excuse for not taking the time to go outside.

Catherine

Another very good excuse of course is the weather. It's not a lot of fun to go out if it's cold and pouring with rain.

Neil

Well, a very wise person once said that there is no such thing as the wrong weather, just the wrong clothing!

Catherine

True, Neil, but you have to have the right clothing in the first place and if the weather is terrible you might not be able to get good pictures for your Instagram account. They might not be **instagramable**. Now you're not going to find that word in the dictionary, but you probably know that the suffix **able** means 'possible'. So put **able** on the end of Instagram and you get **instagramable**.

Neil

And that brings us neatly back to our question. What percentage of people in the survey said that they wouldn't go out in the country because they wouldn't get good pictures for social media? Was it around 10%, 30% or 50%. What did you say, Catherine?

Catherine

I said 10.

Neil

And the answer was about 30%!

Catherine

What is the world coming to?

Neil

I don't know what the world is coming to, but we are coming to the end of the programme, so time to review today's vocabulary.

Catherine

We started off with **to venture out** somewhere, which simply means to go out somewhere, but usually when the conditions are bad, for example – it was pouring with rain but I still decided **to venture out** to the shops.

Neil

We heard about **millennials** and **Generation X**. Different age groups, **millennials** are those who became adults in the early 21st century, and **Generation X** are from the previous generation, who became adults in the 1980s and 1990s.

Catherine

Something **phenomenal** is amazing, surprising and unbelievable.

Neil

And then we had **distractions** for activities that prevent us from doing more important things.

Catherine

And one of the biggest **distractions** is social media. Put the suffix **able** onto the end of the name of a social media platform and you create a word that describes something that is suitable for posting, so **instagramable**.

Neil

bbclearningenglish is certainly instagramable, facebookable, tweetable and youtubeable. You can find us on all those platforms as well as on our website. So do check us out there before joining us again for more 6 Minute English. Goodbye.

Catherine

Goodbye!