



Haley, 17

What have you been doing this week?

Well, mostly all of my days start with getting up at 6:30 and going to the pool to practice with my year-round swim team. At 8:00 I head over to* another pool to coach a swim team. That's one of my part-time jobs. I finish at 11:00 and get home around 11:30 or so. Usually I go home and eat lunch and get my relaxation for the day.

What do you do in the afternoons?

After lunch I usually go back to the pool either to lifeguard or to hang out* with friends. I love to catch a minute, if I can, to read. After that I usually do dinner* with the family; that's from 5:00 to 6:00. At 6:00 I head back to the pool. I coach a night practice. After practice, like 9-ish,* I spend time with the family. We play Wii* or watch a movie. Between 10:00 and 11:00, probably, I'll check the computer, talk on the phone with my friend, and head to bed. Full days.

What do you do on the weekends?

On the weekend, I usually have Saturday off. I like to get out with my friends, go shopping, just relax. It's nice not to be at the pool. On Sunday I usually go to church and do lunch with the family and just hang out.

You said you like to read. What kinds of things do you like to read?

This summer I'm doing a class for school next year. It's called *We the People*.^{*} I'm actually reading constitutional books. Sounds dull, but I find it interesting. We read about how the constitution was written and the deeper meaning of it. If I get any free time in the middle of the day, I sleep. Those early mornings make me tired.

Is there anything you'd like to say to kids in other countries?

Hmmm. Don't close yourself off. Take advantage of all the opportunities you have. Have a full life. Don't think you can't learn more. I think I learn something more nearly every day.

A Few Words

Head over to: An informal way to say "leave one place and go to another one." Notice that Haley also says "head back to" and "head to bed."

Hang out: A very informal way to say "talk to and enjoy being with friends without doing anything special or exciting."

Do dinner: "Do dinner" or "do lunch" is a casual way to say "eat dinner" and "eat lunch."

-ish: A very useful suffix in informal American English. People use it to say that something is not exact or precise. "Nine-ish" (or "9-ish") means "about nine o'clock." A "tall-ish man" is a little bit tall, but not very tall.

Wii: A kind of video game system.

We the People: These are the first words at the beginning of the U.S. Constitution. The complete sentence is: "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Discussion Questions

1. Haley is using her summer vacation to practice her sport, to earn money by teaching her sport, and to study for a class for next year. If you could have the perfect summer, what would you choose to do?
2. Haley's mother and father play video games together with their children. Does your family have a game or other activity that you like to do together? What is it?