

- 1 What do most English people have for breakfast?
 - a tea, cereal and toast
 - b tea, sausages, bacon and eggs
 - c just a cup of tea
- 2 When was the last time that Britain was successfully invaded?
 - a 1944
 - b 1666
 - c 1066
- 3 Which of these plays was not written by Shakespeare?
 - a Macbeth
 - b Edward II
 - c Hamlet
- 4 When is Guy Fawkes Night?
 - a Dec 26th
 - b Nov 5th
 - c Feb 28th
- 5 What will you be given if you order 'a cup of tea' in a café?
 - a black tea with sugar
 - b just black tea
 - c tea with milk
- 6 Who was Prime Minister of Britain during the Second World War?
 - a Sir Winston Churchill
 - b John Churchill
 - c Sir Peter Churchill
- 7 Who wrote the bestselling novel 'A Tale of Two Cities'?
 - a William Shakespeare
 - b Charles Dickens
 - c J K Rowling
- 8 What do British people eat on the day before Lent?
 - a sausages
 - b apple pie
 - c pancakes
- 9 What time do most pubs close?
 - a 11.00pm
 - b 10.30pm
 - c whenever they want to
- 10 What did the British Queen celebrate in 2022?
 - a the marriage of her grandson
 - b the birth of a grandchild
 - c 70 years as Queen
- 11 'The Beatles' came from which British city?
 - a Manchester
 - b Liverpool
 - c London
- 12 What do most British people eat on 25th December?
 - a roast turkey
 - b meat pie
 - c bacon and eggs

Text A

Food and Drink

The typical British breakfast consists of sausages, bacon, eggs, beans, mushrooms and toast. However, contrary to popular belief, the meal is not eaten first thing in the morning as a rule. It is more of a 'brunch', a meal between breakfast and lunch at the weekend. Most of the time, British people just eat cereal or toast for breakfast. The meal is usually accompanied by a nice hot cup of tea with milk – the traditional British drink. It is said the milk was originally added to prevent the hot tea from cracking the delicate Chinese cups from which it was drunk.

Another meal which might be called 'British' is take-away fish and chips. Fish and chips became popular in the 1860s when railways could bring fresh fish direct from coast to big cities much more quickly than previously. Typically, the fish is fried in batter served with chips and covered in salt and vinegar. Not so long ago, it was served wrapped in old newspaper, but now clean, new paper is used.

While Britain is full of Indian, Italian and Chinese restaurants, there are very few British restaurants. So, to eat British food, the best place to go is a public house, better known as a 'pub'. There are over 60,000 pubs in the UK and the oldest dates back to the 11th century. Generally speaking children are allowed in most pubs nowadays but it is illegal for under 18s to consume alcohol. Most pubs are open from before lunchtime and close at 11.00pm at night. If you are in a group, it is customary to take it in turns to buy a drink for everyone, or buy a 'round,' as it is known.

History and Politics

Generally speaking, one date that British school children know is 1066. That is the date of the Battle of Hastings when the Norman French, led by William the Conqueror, invaded Britain. It is known as the last time that Britain was successfully conquered and is the main reason why there are so many words derived from Latin in the English language: they come from Norman French.

Another important moment in history was the signing of the Magna Carta. Although, by and large, people don't know that it was signed in 1215, they definitely know that it was an agreement between the king and the powerful men of the land which is the basis of the British legal system today.

What about famous people from history? When the British television channel, the BBC, asked the public to choose the '100 Greatest Britons' in 2002, the vast majority of British people voted for Sir Winston Churchill. A politician for most of his life, he is best known as the Prime Minister who led Britain during the dark days of the Second World War.

No mention of famous Britons would be complete without mentioning the late Queen, Elizabeth II. She ascended the throne in 1952 when her father died and in 2022 celebrated her Platinum Jubilee – 70 years as queen of Great Britain. She was known for her love of horses and dogs (especially corgis, of which she left behind two upon her passing). The British monarch's administrative headquarters and official London residence is Buckingham Palace, but the monarch has several other houses throughout Britain.