

- 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 1415, 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.

**Text B****Language and Culture**

When talking about the 'Arts' in Britain, more often than not people will mention William Shakespeare, the writer from Stratford-upon-Avon in Central England. He wrote some of the world's most famous plays such as *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet* and *Macbeth*. His works are so widely read that they have influenced the English language itself. Many expressions from Shakespeare's plays have become part of the language, such as saying 'I didn't sleep a wink' when you have insomnia, or describing someone you think is kind as having 'a heart of gold'.

While there is a tendency for other British authors to be considered second best when compared to Shakespeare, we are certainly not short of good writers. In the 19th century, a leading fiction writer was Charles Dickens. One of his most memorable characters was Oliver Twist, an orphan who, after many struggles, becomes successful. His novel *A Tale of Two Cities* about the French Revolution is the third bestselling book of all time. More recently, J.K. Rowling has come to fame with her Harry Potter series. The books have sold over 450 million copies throughout the world, and have been credited with encouraging children to read more.

In terms of music, on the whole Britain is more famous for popular music than for classical music. Most people would agree that the most famous British musicians of them all are the Beatles. Four ordinary men from Liverpool, John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr recorded 214 songs between 1962 and 1970. Their international success made them into one of the most famous rock groups of all time.

**Traditions and Public Holidays**

There are few festivals more 'British' than Guy Fawkes Night on 5th November. What normally happens is that big bonfires and fireworks displays are organised in public parks. It is all to celebrate the capture of Guy Fawkes, a man who tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament in London in 1605. Children often make a man out of old clothes and put him on top of the bonfire to be burnt. Traditional food for the night is a toffee apple – an apple covered in melted sugar.

Another very British festival is Pancake Day which takes place on the Tuesday before the Christian festival of Lent. It is traditional to eat pancakes to use up all the fat, butter and eggs which used to be forbidden during Lent. Pancake races are held all over England. The object of the race is to get to the finishing line first whilst flipping a pancake in a frying pan a set number of times. The winner is the first to cross the finishing line, with the pancake still in perfect condition.

Christmas Day is celebrated on 25th December, not on the night of 24th as in some European countries. On the whole, people start the day by opening their presents which are left by Father Christmas in a big sock called a 'stocking'. There follows an enormous lunch of turkey, roast potatoes, vegetables and gravy (a sauce made from the fat off the meat, vegetable stock and flour). This is followed by Christmas pudding (also known as 'plum pudding') - a heavy cake made of dried fruit and often served covered in brandy and set on fire.