



READING 1: Celebrating with Food

PREVIEW THE READING



Here are some words from the reading. Read the sentences. Then, write each underlined word next to the correct definition.

1. I use ingredients from my garden - tomatoes, peppers and onions. I like fresh vegetables, not canned or frozen ones.
2. Weddings are a special time for people around the world. Most people celebrate their marriages by having a large party for their friends and family.
3. Cookouts are popular for summer holidays. Some traditional menus include grilled beef or chicken, potato salad and fresh watermelon.
4. In Argentinian culture, Constitution Day is a holiday in May. Families prepare pastelitos, delicious fried cookies. They often enjoy them with a cup of hot tea.

- a. _____ (adjective) not usual or ordinary
- b. _____ (adjective) not frozen or in a can
- c. _____ (verb) to make (a dish or meal)
- d. _____ (verb) to do something fun for a holiday
- e. _____ (adjective) liked or enjoyed by a lot of people
- f. _____ (noun) the things that you use to make a meal
- g. _____ (noun) habits, ideas or beliefs of a country
- h. _____ (adjective) based on a belief or have it that started in the past and continues now

PREVIEW THE TEXT

Look quickly at the reading text below. Then, check the true statements.

- 1. The topic of this article is food in the United States.
- 2. There is a paragraph about a garlic festival.
- 3. There is a paragraph about a type of fish called herring.
- 4. The article describes food festivals in different countries.
- 5. The topic of this article is unusual vegetables.

READING 1



Read the following text below. You can listen to it as well by clicking on the blue speaker button.

Celebrating with Food

People all around the world like to **celebrate** holidays, weddings, and the start of a new season with **special** food. Some **cultures** even celebrate food with special festivals! These festivals usually happen once a year. They can be fun and funny, but most of all, they're delicious.

One big food event, the Gilroy Garlic Festival, happens in July. The area around the town of Gilroy, California, produces huge amounts of garlic. Every year, over 4,000 volunteers provide food and entertainment for over 100,000 guests. Cooks **prepare** and sell many different types of dishes, all containing garlic. You can even buy garlic popcorn and garlic ice cream.

The International White Truffle Fair happens in October in Alba, Italy. At the fair, visitors enjoy eating truffles, a kind of fungus. Truffles are a delicious **ingredient** in omelets, pasta, risotto and rice. They can be very expensive; they sometimes cost \$3000 per pound (0.45 kg)!

A very **traditional** food festival happens in Helsinki, Finland. The Baltic Herring Festival is over two hundred seventy years old and celebrates the **popular** fish, the herring. For one week in the month of October, fishermen sell fried herring, herring soup, herring sandwiches and even herring pizza. You can buy **fresh** herring, too, and then take it home and make your own recipe. Other people sell handmade crafts and warm, wool clothes for the winter.

Finally, a very popular Festival happens in Gloucestershire, UK. This festival, called The Cooper's Hill Cheese-Rolling and Wake, is over 200 years old. Organizers of the event buy a large piece of cheese. It weighs over 6 lb (2.72 kg). They then drop it down the hill. As spectators watch and cheer, young men run down the hill after the cheese. There are ambulances at the bottom of the hill because people often fall and sometimes they get hurt. Cheese-rolling is dangerous, but it is a lot of fun.

Reading Comprehension

Select True (T) or False (F).

1. Only people in Italy like to celebrate holidays with special food. **T / F**
2. Special festivals with food usually happen once a month. **T / F**
3. The Gilroy Garlic Festival has both food and entertainment. **T / F**
4. You can get popcorn with garlic at the Gilroy Garlic Festival. **T / F**
5. People eat a lot of chocolate at the International White Truffle Fair. **T / F**
6. Truffles are not very expensive. **T / F**
7. A Herring Festival is held each year in Oslo, Norway. **T / F**
8. You can only buy fish at the Herring Festival. **T / F**
9. People roll small pieces of cheese down Cooper's Hill. **T / F**
10. People are sometimes hurt at the cheese rolling. **T / F**

Complete the sentences with information from the article.

1. People like to _____ holidays with special food.
2. Special festivals can be found in many different _____.
3. At the Gilroy Garlic Festival, there is food and _____.
4. Cooks _____ and sell many kinds of food with garlic.

5. The International White Truffle Fair in Alba, Italy, takes place in the month of _____.

6. Truffles are an _____ in many different kinds of food.

7. The Baltic Herring Festival is more than _____ years old.

8. If you want to cook your own food, you can buy _____ herring.

9. At Cooper's Hill, people run down the hill after the _____.

10. People sometimes get hurt, so there are _____ at the bottom of the cheese-rolling hill.

Answer the questions using FULL sentences.

1. What product does the area around the town of Gilroy produce?

2. How much can one pound of truffles cost?

3. In what month is the Baltic Herring Festival?

4. Why are there ambulances at the Gloucestershire event?

5. "Delicious" is one way to describe food festivals. What are two other words used to describe them?

6. How many volunteers work at the Gilroy Food Festival?
