

You are going to read a blog about a new kind of food. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-F the one which fits each gap (1-6).

- A** Where once it was enjoyed once a week, these days there are those who demand meat at every meal.
- B** If you were to tell someone the burger they were about to eat was made in a laboratory, he or she might simply refuse to eat it.
- C** However, lab-grown meat is now cheaper to create.
- D** Those who've tried it say it looks like, and even tastes like, the real thing.
- E** To meet this increase in demand, more farmed animals are needed.
- F** The main issue is that there isn't enough food to go around.

FEEDING THE WORLD AND SAVING THE PLANET

They say it could save the planet. They say it could stop millions from going hungry every day. But what is "it"? The "it" I'm talking about is synthetic meat – that is, meat that's been scientifically made from animal cells in a laboratory.

This isn't the stuff of science fiction. A Russian cosmonaut did it aboard the International Space Station, and it's just a matter of time before these products arrive in supermarkets. **1** But why is there a need to create something that is already naturally available?

We first need to consider some of the current problems faced with feeding the world. **2** The United Nations estimates that 820 million people go hungry every year. By "hungry", I don't mean when people haven't had time to eat during the day. It's when they go days without eating because there isn't anything available.

On the contrary, there are many who are eating too much – especially meat. **3** This is the case in the developing world, like in China, where meat consumption has risen from around 14 kilos of meat per person per year to around 64 kilos. This in a country of almost 1.5 billion people. But the problem isn't restricted to up-and-coming nations. In the USA, annual beef production has jumped from around seven billion kilos in 1961 to around 12 billion today.

4 And for this there needs to be more land dedicated to agriculture. Large areas of grassland in the USA have been turned into huge, industrial-size farms, while 70 per cent of all deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest is because of the meat industry. As a result, the desire for meat is contributing to climate change. Trees and grass absorb carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that warms Earth's climate. The more trees you destroy, the more carbon dioxide there is in the atmosphere.

There is little surprise then that people feel the need to do something. This is where synthetic meat comes in. Scientists have been working to perfect this since 2013, when Dr Mark Post, a researcher at Maastricht University in the Netherlands, created an artificial hamburger. The taste was authentic, but the cost to make one single burger was prohibitive (€250,000). **5** A Spanish-based company has made an affordable artificial steak that is already available in some restaurants throughout Europe.

But the synthetic industry is facing a bit of resistance – and not only from farmers, who claim that lab-grown food doesn't have the same nutrients. For many, artificial meat doesn't appeal as much as a juicy steak.

6 A recent study has proved this. Around 80 per cent of Americans would be reluctant to even try artificial meat. So it seems to me that maybe the most difficult thing about feeding and saving the world is actually changing people's perceptions.