

Reading comprehension: “STREET FOOD”

Do you think fast food is an *American Phenomenon*? Well, it *isn't!* Let's find out more. In the past, fast food was street food because people weren't always at home for meals. In *ancient Rome* people ate bread and olives on the streets. In the Middle East people bought bread and sauces in the street.

In Victorian Britain, people bought roast chestnuts in the winter.

Today people still buy traditional food to eat on the streets. In France people eat “*crêpes*”, in Belgium people eat “*waffles*” and in Italy people eat “*pizza*”. What about the English Speaking World?

In Trinidad and Tobago, people buy bread called “*roti*”. They eat it with meat and curry. In Jamaica people eat “*patties*”. In India people drink spicy tea and eat deep-fried sweets. In Australia people buy steak sandwiches and ice-creams from mobile vans. People in Britain often eat fish and chips outside. They also eat “*kebabs*” in the streets. In Canada people also eat chips. They buy them from chips wagons and eat them with a meat sauce.

So, what about America? The most common *street food in America* is the *hot dog*. Can you remember people buying hot dogs in the streets in any scenes from films? The *big cities in America* also have a lot of *ethnic street food*. People can buy Chinese, Caribbean, Mexican, Vietnamese, Thai and Indian food on the streets as well as pizza, ice-creams and many other things!

It's important to be careful. Today's fast food sometimes has a lot of fat, sugar and salt. When you buy street food or fast food, always check the *ingredients*. If there is a lot of sugar or salt, don't buy the food. Remember fast isn't always good, but it isn't always terrible either and it has a very long history.

A Read the sentences and mark the sentences true (T), false (F) or doesn't say (DS)

True	False	Doesn't say
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1. Fast food is an American Phenomenon
2. In ancient Rome people bought bread and sauces
3. Nowadays people can't buy food on the streets
4. In Spain people eat tortillas
5. In India people buy bread and meat
6. The most common street food in Britain is fish and chips
7. In America you can buy ethnic food outside

B Answer the following questions:

- 1 What type of street food can you buy in the USA?
- 2 What are the worst ingredients for your health you can have in street food?
- 3 What's your opinion about fast food?
- 4 Do you like it?
- 5 How often do you eat it?

C Complete the chart

Countries	Nationalities	Street food
France		
Belgium		
Italy		
Trinidad and Tobago		
Jamaica		
India	Indian	
Australia		
Britain		
Canada		
America		
	Chinese	
	Caribbean	
	Mexican	
	Vietnamese	
	Thai	