

Years ago, visitors to Britain often complained about how bad English cooking was. And they were right. It's true that the traditional English breakfast of bacon, eggs, fried bread and tomatoes accompanied by orange juice and then toast and marmalade and a couple of cups of tea was almost invariably well-prepared, but lunch and dinner were often very disappointing.

Times have changed, however, and tourists to Britain can now enjoy an astonishing range of high quality meals at reasonable prices. Did you know, for example, that The Balsall Heath district of Birmingham boasts several of the finest Indian restaurants in the world? Or that in a small town like Ludlow (population about ten thousand) you can enjoy French, Spanish, Italian, Greek, Turkish, Indian, Chinese and American food all cooked by expatriate chefs eager to convince you of the culinary delights of their home country?

Long-stay visitors with their own accommodation can collect take-aways or simply telephone a restaurant and have an exotic meal delivered to their doorstep within minutes. Those on a lower budget can get pre-packed oven-ready curries, pizzas and Chinese dishes at almost any supermarket.

So continue to enjoy those traditional English breakfasts -but follow them up with something different.

**Indicate whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F)**

- ....The author says that years ago English lunches and dinners were never good.
- ....Tourists can now get good food without paying a lot of money for it.
- ....Nowadays in England, you can buy a meal at a restaurant and eat it at home.

**Find words or phrases in the text that have the following meaning (4p;-0.5pm)**

Expressed dissatisfaction

Very surprising

Two

Persuade