

- A Scan the article. Which city does pizza come from? When did pizza arrive in New York? What do people in Japan like on their pizzas?

# PIZZA:

## The World's Favorite Food?

Food, and the way we eat it, is always changing. As society develops, we learn new ways of growing, processing, and cooking food. [a] Also, when people travel to live in other countries, they take their knowledge of cooking with them. And food must fit modern lifestyles and local tastes, too. One food that has done this successfully is the pizza.

The pizza we recognize today first appeared in Italy in 1889. A famous baker from Naples made a special pizza for the Italian royal family. [b] Queen Margherita loved the dish so much, the baker named it after her. Since then, this simple meal of bread, cheese, and tomato has traveled the world, and it has adapted to local cultures.

Pizza began its journey in the 1890s, when many Italians moved to New York in search of a better life. There they continued to make pizzas, and the first pizzeria opened in 1905.



At first it was only popular with Italians, but by the late 1940s, Americans discovered a taste for it. Today, they spend an incredible \$37 billion a year on pizzas. [c]

Pizza continued its travels around the world, adapting all the time. In Sweden, for example, it is not unusual to have peanuts and bananas on your pizza. [d] Japan is a nation of seafood lovers, so not surprisingly, they love octopus and squid, as well as roasted seaweed, toppings. Australians sometimes choose kangaroo or crocodile, and in the Philippines they like mango on their pizza.

The popularity of the pizza is also related to our changing lifestyles. In today's super-fast society, people often don't have the time or energy to cook. So, they order takeout – and very often, it's a pizza. [e] If you don't even have time to sit down, buy a single slice and eat it standing up!

The pizza has come a long way. From its beginnings in an Italian city, it has grown to become one of the world's favorite foods.



- B Read the article. Where do these sentences belong? Write the letters a–e.

- \_\_\_ 1. That's more than \$100 per American!
- \_\_\_ 2. What we ate 200 years ago was very different from what we eat today.
- \_\_\_ 3. In Belgium, people eat chocolate pizzas with marshmallows on top.
- \_\_\_ 4. Sometimes you don't even have to pick it up; it's delivered to your home.
- \_\_\_ 5. He was very worried they wouldn't like it, but they did.

- C How has local food changed in your country in the last 50 years? What new foods do you eat now that you didn't eat before?