

Reading Comprehension

a Before reading, can you tell me what time do you usually...?

get up	have a coffee
have breakfast	have lunch
do exercise	have dinner
do important tasks	go to bed

b Read the article once. Do you do any of the things from the chart at the times the article recommends?

c Read the article again. Answer the questions.

- 1 Why is it important to have breakfast every day when you're a teenager?
- 2 What effect does caffeine have on us if we drink it between 2.00 and 5.00 p.m.?
- 3 What's the difference between having steak and chips for lunch and having it for dinner?

Eat and drink – but at the right time!

In our super-busy 21st-century lives, most of us try to do as much as we can in 24 hours. However, we usually do things whenever it suits us, and experts say that this is disrupting our body's natural cycle, making us feel tired at times when we should feel awake, and vice versa. Science shows that by doing things at the right time, we can be happier and healthier.

Have breakfast at 8.00 a.m.

In a recent study, researchers found having breakfast at this time is good for our blood sugar levels, so the food you eat now will give you the energy you need. It's also important not to skip breakfast. Another research team, from Sweden, suggested that people who ate a regular breakfast as teenagers were 32% less likely to be at risk of heart disease as adults.

Don't drink coffee in the morning. Have one at 3.00 p.m.

Most coffee drinkers make a cup as soon as they wake up. However, researchers have suggested that early morning is the worst time to drink coffee, because it stops the body from producing the stress hormone cortisol, which we need at this time to help us to wake up. The best time to drink coffee – or caffeine in general – is between 2.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m., when it can make us more mentally alert, according to a study carried out by the University of Sheffield a few years ago.

Have lunch between 12.00 and 2.00

This is when our body digests food best, because this is when the stomach produces most acid. So it's the ideal time to have your main meal of the day. An experiment by nutritionists at the University of Surrey found that blood glucose levels after an evening meal were much higher than when people had the same meal earlier in the day, and high levels of glucose can cause diabetes.

Have dinner at 7.00 p.m.

Have your evening meal early. It should be delicious – our sense of smell and taste are at their best at this time – but light. And if you want a small glass of wine, have it before dinner, as 6.30 is when the liver is most efficient at dealing with alcohol.

More good times for your body

- Ideally, you should get up when the sun rises. When we see daylight, we stop producing the sleep hormone melatonin and start getting ready for the day ahead.
- Do yoga or go for a walk before breakfast.
- Do important tasks at 11.00 a.m., when your brain is working best.
- Weightlifting sessions are best done at midday – that's when your muscles are strongest.
- The best time to run or cycle is 5.00 p.m., when your lung capacity – important for endurance sports – is at its greatest.
- Go to bed between 9.00 p.m. and 11.00 p.m. This is when your body temperature starts to go down and the brain begins producing melatonin.



Adapted from The Times

4 Why should an early evening meal be 'delicious'?



5 What's the best physical activity to do a) early in the morning, b) in the afternoon?



6 Why does the body produce melatonin?



Melatonin

d Search the text and find six parts of the body. Which do we a) have one of, b) two of, c) more than two of?

- 1 he _____
- 2 st _____
- 3 li _____
- 4 br _____
- 5 mu _____
- 6 lu _____



e Answer the questions.

1 Do you believe all the information in this article? Why (not)? Give examples from your own experience.



2 Would you consider changing any of your habits based on this information?

