

Level: B2: Upper Intermediate

Skill: Reading

T

Ketchup



The sauce that is today called ketchup (or catsup) in Western cultures is a tomato-based sauce that is quite distinct from the Eastern **ancestors** of this product. A sauce called ke-tiap was in use in China at least as early as the seventeenth century, but the Chinese version of the sauce was made of pickled fish, shellfish, and spices. The popularity of this Chinese sauce spread to Singapore and Malaysia, where **it** was kechap. The Indonesian sauce ketjab derives its name from the same source as the Malaysian sauce but is made from very different ingredients.



Early in the eighteenth century, sailors from the British navy came cross this exotic sauce on voyages to Malaysia and Singapore and brought samples of it back to England on return voyages. English chefs tried to recreate the sauce but were unable to do so exactly because key ingredients were unknown or unavailable in England, chefs ended up substituting ingredients such as mushrooms and walnuts in an attempt to recreate the special taste of the original Asian sauce. Variations of this sauce became quite the rage in eighteen-century England, appearing in a number of recipe books and featured as an exotic addition to menus from the period.

The English version did not contain tomatoes, and it was not until the end of the eighteen century that tomatoes became a main ingredient, in the ketchup of the newly created in the United States. It is quite notable that tomatoes were added to the sauce, in that tomatoes had previously been considered quite dangerous to health.

Tomato ketchup was quite time-consuming to prepare. In 1876, the first mass-produced tomato ketchup, a product of German-American Heinz, went on sale and achieved immediate success. From tomato ketchup, Heinz branched out into a number of other products, including various sauces, pickles, and relishes. By 1890, his company had expanded to include sixty-five different products, but was in need of a marketing slogan. Heinz settled on the slogan “57 Varieties” because he liked the way that the digits 5 and 7 looked in print, in spite of the fact that this slogan understated the number of products that they had at the time.

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Choose the correct option to answer the questions

What is the main idea of the passage?

- The different names of the sauce
- The inventor of a recipe
- The variation of the sauce
- The history of a sauce

The word **ancestors** is closest in meaning to

- predecessors
- descendents
- creators
- ingredients

The word **it** in paragraph 1 refers to

- a sauce
- a week
- the resulting solution
- this process

It can be inferred from paragraph 2 that mushrooms and walnuts were

- difficult to find in England
- not part of the original Asian recipe
- not native to England
- transported from England to Asian

