

Fish and chips

13 Read the text and complete the sentences.

- 1 The Belgians invented chips.
- 2 _____ was the first person to sell fish and chips in London.
- 3 _____ wrote about fish and chips.
- 4 _____ opened the biggest fish and chip shop in the world in 1931.
- 5 _____ serves fish and chips in his restaurant in Paris.



Britain's favourite meal

The Portuguese gave us fried fish. The Belgians invented chips. Then more than 150 years ago, the British put them together to create fish and chips.

Today, Britain has lots of fish and chip shops – over 10,500! They make over £1.2 billion a year. However, this multi-million-pound industry grew from small beginnings.



How it all began

150 years ago, on the streets of the East End of London, a 13-year-old boy called Joseph Malin had the bright idea of combining fried fish with chips.

Joseph's family didn't have much money, so to increase the family income they began frying chips in a downstairs room of their house. Nearby was a fried fish shop, and Joseph put some fried fish with his chips and walked the streets. He sold the fish and chips from a tray, which hung round his neck. Joseph sold lots of fish and chips, so he decided to open a fish and chip shop – the first of many fish and chip shops in Britain.

Fish and chips became a favourite with poor people. They didn't cost much money and they were quick and tasty. Charles Dickens, the famous Victorian novelist, wrote about 'fried fish warehouses' in his book *Oliver Twist*.

The dispute

However, there are some questions about how the dish really began. In the north of England a lot of people don't believe Joseph

Malin's story. They say a man called John Lees began selling fish and chips in a market in Mossley, Lancashire in 1863. Today, there is a plaque there in his honour.

Whatever the truth, the dish became extremely popular. By 1910 there were more than 25,000 shops across the country and over 35,000 by the 1920s. In 1931 Harry Ramsden from Yorkshire opened a fish and chip shop 'palace' modelled on the Ritz Hotel in London. Lots of people visited the original shop. There are now Harry Ramsden's fish and chip shops all over the world.



Fish and chips today

Nowadays, there are many other kinds of fast food, such as burgers, kebabs, and pizzas. They are much more popular than fish and chips. However, in Paris, France, *le fish and chips* is becoming the chic new meal. It appears on menus in some of Paris's most fashionable restaurants. 'People love them for lunch or supper,' says chef Olivier Dupart.

15 Join the lines about Britain's favourite meal with a, an, the or no article (-).

The Belgians invented	chips.
Joseph Malin was	Paris.
He came from	a family income.
He sold fish and chips to increase	an incredible success.
It was	the fish and chips in his book.
Charles Dickens wrote about	London.
Harry Ramsden opened	fish and chip shop in London.
Fish and chips are now popular in	13-year-old boy.