



The Cucumber Sandwich (A2 - Pre-Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. How often do you eat sandwiches?
2. What are your favourite fillings?
3. Do you think sandwiches are good for you? Why (not)?
4. Have you ever tried cucumber sandwiches?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and choose the correct answer.

1. Cucumber sandwiches are usually made with ... bread.
a) brown b) white c) black
2. Cucumbers have been grown in India for about ... years.
a) 3,000 b) 1,300 c) 300
3. The cucumber sandwich was invented in the ... century.
a) 14th b) 16th c) 19th
4. Cucumber sandwiches contain a lot of calories.
a) True. b) False. c) The article doesn't say.
5. The classic cucumber sandwich is made with thinly sliced cucumber and
a) salt and pepper. b) oil and vinegar. c) salt and lemon juice.
6. The author of the article doesn't like cucumber sandwiches.
a) True. b) False. c) The article doesn't say.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. How did cucumbers probably arrive in Europe?
2. How did Catharine of Aragon like to eat cucumbers?
3. Why did cucumber sandwiches become popular among Britons in India?
4. At what time of day were they usually eaten in Victorian England?
5. Why were they associated with rich people and not with workers?
6. What made it possible to eat cucumbers all year round?
7. What other ingredients are often added to the sandwiches?
8. Why did the late Queen Elizabeth enjoy them with mint?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from plural to singular.)

1. In summer, tomatoes can be grown outside. In winter they are usually grown in a _____.
2. Go and wash your hands! They're as black as _____.
3. _____ is a herb that's often used when cooking fish.

- The two boys started fighting outside the pub and soon a crowd _____ to watch.
- This soup is rather _____. We need to add some pepper and herbs to give it some flavour.
- In 1897, the Kellogg company invented a vegetarian meat, but it didn't _____.

E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test? (Paper 1, Part 4)

Choose the best word for each space.

Most people know 1_____ (how/what/which) a sandwich is and how it's made, but 2_____ (few/a few/many) people know that it got its name from an 18th-century English aristocrat, John Montagu, who was Earl of Sandwich. Lord Sandwich spent long hours 3_____ (play/to play/playing) cards and was in the habit of ordering his valet to bring him some slices of beef between two pieces of bread, 4_____ (while/so that/but) he could go on playing without stopping for a meal. This way, he didn't need to use a fork and he could eat with his hands without 5_____ (making/doing/becoming) the cards dirty. His friends began to follow his example and ordered "the same 6_____ (how/like/as) Sandwich". Soon this way of eating became popular in London and then it spread all over England.

F – Check your pronunciation

One of the four words in each group has a different vowel sound. Which one?

- brought through consumed food
- grown though caught low
- bread need dealing heat
- success invent preference even
- herbs served there perfect

G – Write about it

Write about your favourite snack. Mention:

- what the ingredients are;
- how it's made;
- when you usually eat it;
- whether it's healthy.

Charlie Chaplin (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

- What do you know about Charlie Chaplin?
- Did he have a different name in your country? If so, what was it?
- Have you seen any of his films?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

- Charlie Chaplin was British by birth.
- His parents were successful music hall entertainers.
- He began appearing on stage while still a child.
- In Hollywood, he became famous but did not earn much money.
- Chaplin stopped making silent films as soon as sound films arrived.
- Some American conservatives didn't approve of his later films.
- He was banned from returning to the USA and moved to London with his fourth wife.
- He didn't make any more films after leaving the USA.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. At what age did Charlie Chaplin have to start looking after himself? Why?
2. What fortunate invention made him world-famous?
3. Why did the introduction of sound in films make things difficult for Chaplin?
4. What aspect of modern technology did he criticise in his film *Modern Times*?
5. What kind of film was *The Great Dictator*?
6. What aspects of Chaplin's private life were criticised in America?
7. What did he do besides acting in films?
8. Why is he still considered highly influential?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense or change from plural to singular.)

1. Max's parents were diplomats, who lived abroad for many years before _____ in London.
2. There was a crowd outside the cinema for the _____ of the film *Dungeons and Dragons*.
3. Throw that old raincoat away! You look like a poor old _____ when you're wearing it.
4. Our neighbour's little boy is very _____. He sticks his tongue out at passers-by.
5. DDT was an insecticide that was _____ because of its effect on wildlife and the environment.
6. Peter discovered he had a _____ for languages and decided to become an interpreter.

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 1)

Read the text and decide which word in brackets best fits each space.

Charlie Chaplin's fourth and 1_____ (latest/last/later/lasting) wife was actress Oona O'Neill. He 2_____ (was/had/is/has) been introduced to her by a film agent in 1942. When they 3_____ (are/began/became/got) married in 1943, Chaplin was 54 years of age and his bride had just 4_____ (turned/completed/became/been) 18.

Oona's father was a 5_____ (whole/sole/mere/only) six months older than Chaplin. He was Eugene O'Neill, the renowned American playwright. O'Neill was fiercely opposed to the marriage and, as a result, refused to have 6_____ (no/nothing/something/anything) more to do with his daughter. However, the couple had eight 7_____ (sons/children/siblings/infants) – five girls and three boys – and despite the 36-year age 8_____ (gap/space/break/interval), the marriage lasted till Chaplin's death in 1977.

F – Write about it

Write about a classic film made in your own language. Mention:

- what genre it belongs to;
- when it was made;
- who it was directed by;
- who starred in it;
- where/when the story is set;
- what it's about;
- why it's considered a classic.

The Human Genome Project (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. What do you know about DNA? (What is it? When was it discovered? etc.)
2. How many uses of DNA science can you think of?

B – Listen and answer

Read these incomplete statements. Then listen (without reading) and complete them.

1. DNA was first isolated in the year _____.
2. Renato Dulbecco, an Italian-American _____, suggested sequencing the human genome.
3. Dulbecco was the winner of the Nobel Prize for _____ in 1975.
4. In 1988, Dulbecco's project was approved by the US _____ of Science.
5. The project officially began in October _____.
6. Research centres in the US, _____, _____, _____, Germany and the UK took part in it.
7. It was decided to sequence smaller genomes first, like those of the _____, worm and fruit fly.
8. The project involved the work of biologists, _____, _____ and mathematicians.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What is the definition of genomics?
2. Why did Renato Dulbecco think it would be useful to sequence the human genome?
3. Why were some biologists against the project?
4. Why was the Human Genome Project different from any previous biology projects?
5. What examples does the article give of illnesses caused by genetic mutations?
6. On what other occasion did scientists from all over the world work together successfully?
7. In what kinds of treatment have there been improvements as a result of the project?
8. What is CRISPR/Cas9?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from singular to plural.)

1. In some countries, there are _____ laws that seriously limit women's freedom.
2. The judges of the school art competition _____ the first prize to an awful painting of a rat!
3. I don't think I've passed the written exam. Some of the questions were really _____.
4. It would be great to organise a conference on this theme, but where will we get the _____?
5. Don't eat those apples! They're full of _____.
6. Some people were in favour of the idea. Others _____ that it would be a waste of money.

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam? (Paper 1, Reading: Part 6))

Write one word only in each space.

Renato Dulbecco was born in 1914 in Calabria, Southern Italy, but he 1_____ most of his childhood in Liguria, Northern Italy. He studied medicine at Turin University and was only 22 when he got his 2_____.

During World War II, he was a medical officer and was sent to the front, first in France and then in Russia, 3_____ he was wounded. Later he joined the resistance movement fighting 4_____ the German occupation of Italy.

After the war, Dulbecco moved to the United States and carried 5_____ important research on the viruses that can cause cancer, for 6_____ he was given the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1975. He died in 2012, a few days before his 98th birthday.

F – Write about it

Write about one of your country's greatest scientists (living or dead). Include:

- some biographical information
- what field the scientist worked in;
- what his/her best-known discovery was;
- what (if any) awards he/she received.

The First Mobile Phone Call (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. How old were you when you got your first mobile phone?
2. What do you use your phone for, apart from making phone calls?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and choose the correct answer.

1. In 1973, Martin Cooper made the first mobile phone call from
 - a) his laboratory.
 - b) his car.
 - c) the street.
2. He phoned
 - a) a competitor.
 - b) an associate.
 - c) a relative.
3. The phone was
 - a) much smaller than a shoe.
 - b) much larger than a shoe.
 - c) shaped like a shoe.
4. The price of the first mobile phone to go on sale to the public was
 - a) \$399.
 - b) \$3,995.
 - c) \$39.95
5. The figure 7.33 billion refers to
 - a) the number of people with a cell phone.
 - b) the number of people with a smart phone.
 - c) the number of cell phones sold each year.
6. Martin Cooper
 - a) has stopped working.
 - b) still works for Motorola.
 - c) still works in the phone industry, but not for Motorola.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Why do you think Joel Engel went silent when he received Cooper's call?
2. What drawbacks did the first mobile phone prototype have?
3. How long did it take for the company to develop a mobile phone to be sold to the public?
4. How big and how heavy was the DynaTac 8000X?
5. What has changed since then in the way people see the mobile phone?
6. Why is Cooper optimistic about the future of mobile phones?

D – Listen to the interview (Optional)

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense.)

1. Grandad still drives a car _____ his poor eyesight.
 2. Last year we bought a crate of apples from a farmer and _____ them in our cellar.
 3. While our friends were touring France, their suitcases were stolen from the _____ of their car.
 4. The _____ price of laptops is lower than in the past.
 5. You shouldn't use an electrical appliance if the _____ is damaged.
 6. Jack is ten years old and he still can't _____ his shoelaces!
- astrology.

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 3)

Use the word in brackets to form a word that fits in the space given.

1. Cooper's phone call in 1973 introduced an era of _____ (CONTINUE) connectivity.
2. It was the first call made from a _____ (PORT) phone.
3. Car phones existed but they were connected to heavy _____ (EQUIP) in the boot of the car.

4. The press wrote _____ (ENTHUSIASM) about the new device.
5. In 1983, the first handheld mobile phone became _____ (AVAIL) for the public to buy.
6. At that time, it was a symbol of wealth but also of unjustified _____ (SPEND).
7. However, in fifty years the invention has _____ (REVOLUTION) our world.
8. Phones have become slimmer, lighter and more _____ (POWER).

F – Talk about it

In pairs or groups.

1. Some say teenagers had more freedom before the arrival of mobile phones. Do you agree?
2. If you had to do without your phone for several days, what would you miss most?
3. What are the advantages/disadvantages for professional people of being available all the time?
4. Martin Cooper thinks that in the future people will have their mobile phones inserted under the skin of their ears. What do you think of his prediction?

Answers (The Cucumber Sandwich A2 - Pre-Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. b 2. a 3. c 4. b 5. c 6. c

C – Read and answer

1. They were probably brought to Europe by the Romans.
2. She liked to eat them in her salad.
3. Life in India was difficult because of the hot climate and cucumber sandwiches were a refreshing snack.
4. They were usually eaten at around 4 o'clock in the afternoon.
5. Because they don't contain a lot of calories. Rich people didn't do physical work so they didn't need to eat food with substance.
6. The use of glasshouses to grow them in.
7. Sometimes people add cream cheese, mayonnaise, dill and salmon, or mixed herbs, yoghurt and olive oil.
8. Because mint made them even more refreshing.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. glasshouse 2. coal 3. Dill 4. gathered 5. bland 6. catch on

E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test?

1. what 2. few 3. playing 4. so that 5. making 6. as

F – Check your pronunciation

1. brought 2. caught 3. bread 4. even 5. there

Answers (Charlie Chaplin B2 - Upper Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. T 2. F – They were music hall entertainers but they were desperately poor. 3. T 4. F – He became Hollywood's highest-paid actor. 5. F – He continued to make silent films until 1940. 6. T 7. F – He moved to Switzerland. 8. F – He made a few more films.

C – Read and answer

1. At the age of nine, because his father died and his mother became mentally ill.
2. The invention of his character The Tramp.
3. Because his tramp character depended on mime. There was no dialogue, so the films could be seen in other countries without the need for translation. All this changed with the arrival of sound.
4. He criticised its dehumanising effects.
5. It was a satirical film about Adolf Hitler.
6. He was criticised for his marriages and relationships with very young women.
7. He also wrote, directed and produced his own films.
8. He is considered by many to be the father of cinema. According to Time Magazine, he helped turn an industry into an art.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. settling 2. premiere 3. tramp 4. cheeky 5. banned 6. gift

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. last 2. had 3. got 4. turned 5. mere 6. anything 7. children 8. gap
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Answers (The Human Genome Project B1 - Lower Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. 1869 2. virologist 3. Medicine 4. National Academy 5. 1990 6. China, Japan, France 7. mouse 8. engineers, computer scientists

C – Read and answer

1. It's the study of genes and their functions. 2. Because he thought it would help understand cancer. 3. They thought that it was risky to put so much money into one big project and that it was unfair to small research units. 4. It was a very large international collaboration that involved thousands of scientists working in many research centres in different countries. 5. The examples are cancer, cystic fibrosis and Alzheimer's. 6. During the Covid pandemic. 7. In targeted and personalised treatments. 8. It's a technique that can repair errors in DNA.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. unfair 2. awarded 3. challenging 4. funding 5. worms 6. argued

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?

1. spent 2. degree 3. where 4. against 5. out 6. which
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Answers (The First Mobile Phone Call B2 - Upper Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. c 2. a 3. b 4. b 5. a 6. c

C – Read and answer

1. Probably because he was angry that Cooper had managed to invent a mobile phone before he had. 2. It was very large, the battery only lasted half an hour and it took ten hours to charge. 3. It took ten years. 4. It was 25cm tall and weighed 790 grams. 5. Nowadays people see the mobile phone as a necessity, not a status symbol. 6. Because he believes they can improve healthcare and eradicate poverty.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. despite 2. stored 3. boot 4. current 5. cord 6. tie

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. continuous 2. portable 3. equipment 4. enthusiastically 5. available 6. spending
7. revolutionised 8. powerful