

Travel

~ Europe ~

Unit 2 of 5

The British Isles are home to two countries, Great Britain and The Republic of Ireland. Although Great Britain is a single country, it includes England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Each of those has different cultural backgrounds with strong national pride. In fact, many times their individual local governments have brought up the question of breaking off from England, currently the seat of Parliament, the national government, in order to establish home rule. Although English is the language spoken by those from all these areas, and the country as a whole is tiny compared to the United States, each region has an accent that stands out from the others.

1. What’s the first thing that comes to mind when you think of England? Scotland? Ireland? Which would you rather visit and why?

ENGLAND

London is the largest city in England. In this capital of seven million residents, more than half of them were born elsewhere!

2. Name two advantages and two disadvantages of living in a different country from your native country.

One place where people of many nationalities settled when they came to England is called Brick Lane, a community where housing has not been too expensive. Brick Lane got its name because it was where the bricks were made to rebuild the city after the great fire of 1666 burnt down most of London. Many of the immigrants are from Bangladesh.

In Brick Lane, you may be interested in the streetlights. At the top of each tall green metal pole is a metal ornament, like the leaves of a flower -- the only place you will see them in London. Their design is based on an original one from Bangladesh. The city council put them in to mark the fact that the area has a large population of people from that country.



Even the street signs reflect the Bangladeshis' growing presence in London

3. Think of an item or symbol that represents home to you and explain its significance.

4. How would you define homeland?

Bangladesh was created in 1971 when India invaded East Pakistan, defeating the West Pakistani occupation forces. In 1974, Pakistan agreed to recognize the independence of Bangladesh. It is one of the poorest countries in the world, with summer floods and winter droughts. Most people in India practice different religions from the Bangladeshi; wars have resulted from these differences.

5. List two reasons, besides poverty and war, why some choose to leave their homeland.

6. Imagine you have just left Bangladesh and come to live in London. Write a letter to your family back home.



On Brick Lane, shops sell food, clothes, books, and other goods from Bangladesh. In one small block every building, eight of them, is a Bangladeshi restaurant! Rice and different varieties of curry are staples in Bangladesh dishes, and the food is generally very aromatic and bold.

7. What would be the two most important elements of your home country you would like to see in a new place and why? (Ex. food, sports, music, etc.)

Further down Brick Lane, one large building has a very tall chimney on which is painted "Truman..." To an Englishman that means beer. This is an old brewery, but has been converted to bars and shops selling fashion items. If you're lucky enough to arrive on market day, you'll see crowds of people and barriers blocking traffic. All along the lane, in the side streets and under the arches of the overhead railway, are stalls selling fruit and vegetables, clothes, carpets, cleaning products, tapes and videos, furniture, etc. In addition to stalls, there are quite a few poor folk trying to sell items they have lying on the pavement.

8. Do you suppose these vendors have as much of a profit margin (income vs. expenses) as the fashion stores? To get an idea, list the kinds of expenses for each.

9. What would you choose to sell at a street stall? What would you estimate your daily income to be?

Before you can buy anything, you must figure out the currency! The British have pence, shillings, and pounds vs. America's pennies, quarters, and dollars. Each British pound has 100 pence, just like our dollar and cents, but the ratio between pound to dollar changes throughout the years. In 2015, one pound was worth around \$1.50.

10. If you changed \$50 into pounds, how many pounds would you have?

One group of people who also live in the East End of London are called "Cockneys". They are London's city dwellers who used to run the street markets; sometimes they got into trouble with country dwellers who came in to the markets. They also had the reputation of getting into trouble with the law.

Although English is their native tongue, they nevertheless started their own language -- some people think it was to fool customers in the markets. Regular English has adopted a number of Cockney expressions. For example, you might hear someone say, "Let's get down to brass tacks". "Brass tacks" is Cockney for "facts".

Here's how it works: You pick words that rhyme with the words you want to say. If a Cockney wants to say that his "wife is upstairs", it will come out *Me trouble and strife is up to the apples and pears*". These are tricky, but you quiz fans might enjoy the next few questions.

11. What are you doing if you "go to the Eiffel Tower with faith and hope for a Charles and Dave and a Bob Squash"? (Don't worry, the translation is in Appendix 1!)

12. Try one of your own: write a sentence with three Cockney replacements for your words.

13. Draw a picture of what you just described, (in case your College Guild reader can't figure out the sentence!).

Art is also highly valued in Brick Lane, and walls of graffiti can be found along the streets. Instead of this wall art being scrubbed off or scrutinized, the people of Brick lane celebrate the unique contributions of its artistic community.

14. What are three reasons people might use graffiti?

As you must know, sports are a huge part of a nation's culture. In England, football is one of their most revered sports. Now, when we say football, we don't mean quarterbacks and balls being passed from hand to hand; football in England is what Americans call soccer -- confusing isn't it?

Though it is believed some form of soccer was played in China during the 2nd and 3rd centuries BC, the major growth of football took place in England. Before regulations were made, the game often grew violent, both within the game and the crowds watching. Apparently, soldiers liked the game so much, they often played instead of going to their archery practice. When King Edward III banned football because of its violent tendencies, it was clear some rules needed to be put in place. Scotland and England became cofounders of the game and created the Cambridge Rules in 1815. In 1863, London clubs and schools sent eleven representatives to create the Football Association, which included formal rules, and created a split between football and rugby.

FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) was established in 1904 and the first world cup took place in Uruguay. The FIFA world cup brings together many nations -- teams from thirty-one different countries participated in the 2014 world cup.

15. Write a poem about football (our "soccer"), Brick Lane, immigration, or graffiti.

FRANCE

The city we picture when thinking of France is, of course, Paris. The Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, and the Louvre museum are among France's most famous destinations for visitors.



In this unit, we'll leave the tourists and instead visit France's fourth largest city. Toulouse has over 400,000 residents. Despite its beautiful architecture and grand hotels, Toulouse is a seemingly overlooked city; it has only a fraction of the tourists compared to Paris, Bordeaux, and Nice. Toulouse is known as "La Ville Rose", meaning "the pink city", so named because of the dusty-pink bricks that make up many of the buildings.

16. Think of a place you have been (or make one up!) and come up with a nickname for the city/town. Explain your reasons for choosing that name.

Toulouse is located in southwest France and for many centuries has been a crucial trade point between the Pyrenees, the Mediterranean, and the Atlantic. In the 15th century, Toulouse began to prosper, beginning with their trading of Bordeaux wine with England. They also traded cereals and textiles, as well as a plant-based dye called "pastel" which was exported throughout Europe. When Americans sent over a new blue dye called "indigo", Toulouse's pastel trade was almost completely wiped out.

17. Think of a new product that has come on the market recently and wiped out something "old."

Shortly after, fires destroyed many buildings AND there were more outbreaks of famine and plague AND religious conflict arose between the Catholics and the Protestant Calvinists...Toulouse was not at its best. In fact, in 1761, a Toulouse merchant named Jean Calas reportedly murdered his son to prevent him from converting to Catholicism.

Today, Toulouse has one of the oldest Universities in Europe -- it was founded in 1229! This world-renowned school has more than 100,000 students and a wide variety of subjects: arts, literature, humanities, languages, economics, law, science, health, engineering, and space are just a handful of the subjects offered. Speaking of "space", Toulouse has one of the most famous, devoted space centers in the world. There is a cluster of over 500 companies devoted to working on engineering and research of space travel. This has provided more than 120,000 jobs in the space flight industry! As of 2005, the aerospace cluster's goal was to create 40,000 new jobs in the next twenty years. There is also an "Aerospace Campus" in Toulouse that houses many aviation schools and researchers. With all the new progress we've made in space travel, this is an exciting time to be part of the aerospace community in Toulouse.

18. Would you want to travel in space? Why or why not?

19. If you were working on an aerospace research team, which topic would you find the most interesting? (Ex. Spaceship development, researching life on mars, etc.) What would you hope to discover?

After all that space travel, you've got to be hungry! France is notorious for its fine cuisine, and many Western dishes are inspired by the culinary expertise of the French. During your stay in Toulouse, you might start the day with a walk down the markets that line the streets almost every day. These markets have fresh vegetables, fruit, high quality meats and eggs, and herbs and seasonings -- many of the residents will pick out their ingredients for their meals every day, unlike the processed foods that have become a familiarity in Western cuisine.

20. What are two reasons many people have come to rely on frozen and processed foods?

Now let's take you through a day of food in a Frenchman's eyes:

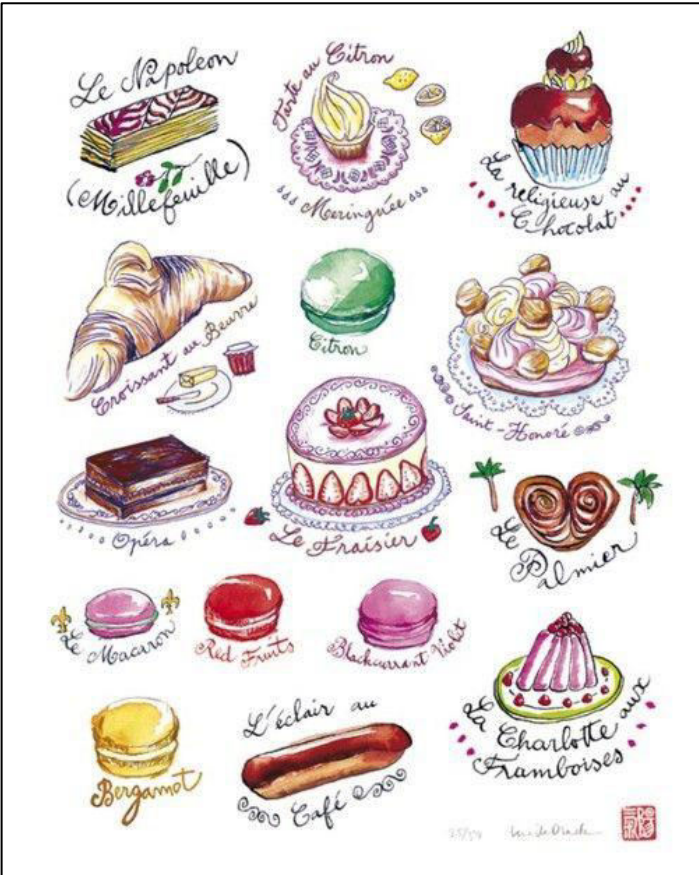
Breakfast: Known as *le petit déjeuner* in French, breakfast is typically a quick meal in France. Coffee and tea is often accompanied with fresh French bread and jelly or jams. Children often drink hot chocolate in the morning with their breakfast, and decadent pastries, like chocolate filled croissants, are saved as a weekend breakfast treat. (Chocolate was brought over to France as a gift from Princess Maria Theresa of Spain, in 1643. It's been a popular ingredient in French cuisine ever since, and there's some evidence dark chocolate enhances circulation, gives energy, fights infectious diseases, and even prevents cancer!)

Lunch: *Le déjeuner* in France (notice now that breakfast literally means "small lunch") has traditionally been a two-hour meal in the middle of the day, a time for those working to relax and digest the wonderful food. Recently there has been a trend toward taking one-hour lunch breaks. However, Sunday lunches are still typically a longer occasion. Restaurants in France have very strict hours; lunch is generally served from noon until 2:30pm.

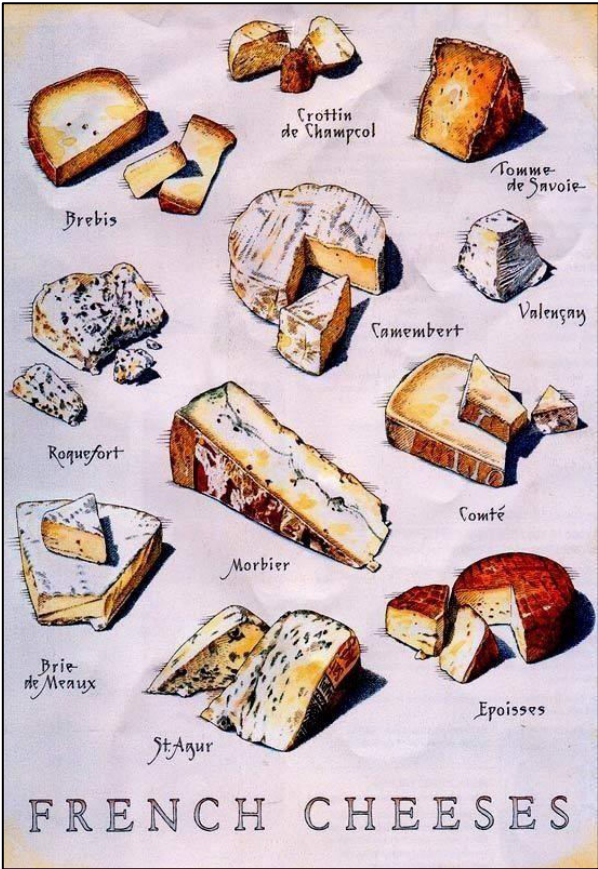
Dinner: *Le dîner* is an elaborate meal of three courses. It begins with the *hors d'oeuvre* (appetizers), such as a soup or small starter. Next comes *le plat principal* (main course), which often consists of delicately cooked meat with fresh vegetables and potatoes, rice, or pasta. The final course is the cheese course or dessert. France is famous for its cheeses! There's Brie, Munster, Gruyère, Roquefort, and Bleu de Gex to name a few. Throughout the meal, diners are served freshly baked breads, wine, and mineral water. Restaurants are typically open from 7:30pm until 11pm for dinner -- a much different schedule from Western mealtimes.

21. Write a story that centers around cheese, chocolate, or French bread.

Some famous French foods are shown below:



French Pastries



French Cheeses

22. Make believe you are a famous French chef. What are your breakfast, lunch, dinner, and dessert specialties?

23. You've just read quite a bit on French cuisine, but what is your favorite type of food and why? (Ex. Italian, Chinese, Thai, German, Tex-Mex, etc.)



After the decadent French meals, you may need to sleep off your food -- which can be done on the exotic beaches of Marseille, only a three-hour train ride from Toulouse. Marseille is officially the sunniest major city in France, averaging over 2,900 hours of sunshine/year as opposed to France's average of 1,950 hours. Marseille is also home to France's largest port, drawing in humble fishing boats and expensive yachts from all around the world. Many of the buildings were destroyed during World War II but have been rebuilt to capture their previous charm and beauty.

Marseille is also known as France's "Melting Pot." In fact, it is an example for all the world of a place mixing ethnicities and religion due to its high rate of immigration. Being situated on the shore, Marseille is a refuge for many people escaping the persecution or poverty of their homelands. It is said that in Marseille, *rich and poor, white and black, African and Arab, Muslim, Christian, and Jew, all find their own space on the sand, strip off most of their clothes, and settle down to socialize - and be socialized -- under the Provençal sun.* Though Marseille does experience its fair share of contraband and rough behaviors, it has served as a sort of vision for those countries dealing with immigration in the past. Now-a-days, immigration is a controversial subject in many countries as people are fleeing the unrest in their homelands.

24. Write a letter to the newspaper about the importance of welcoming persecuted immigrants.

Remember: First names only & please let us know if your address changes

Appendix

Translation for Question #11: Go to the shower with soap for a shave and a wash.

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