



A Short History of Bagels (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. What kind of bread do you and your family usually eat?
2. Do you ever have sandwiches or bread rolls for lunch? If so, what's your favourite filling?
3. Are there any special kinds of bread that are typical of your region? If so, why are they special?
4. Have you ever tasted bagels?

B – Listen and answer

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

1. Most bagels are still made by hand.
2. Between 2 and 10 million bagels are sold in the US every year.
3. Nobody knows for sure exactly where they were invented.
4. According to one legend, they were invented in Vienna in 1683.
5. Bagels were first brought to the United States in the 1920s.
6. In the traditional recipe, the bagels are boiled before being baked in the oven.
7. They became popular among the general population in the 1970s.
8. Today's bagels are less fattening than those made 20 years ago.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions..

1. What are bagels made with?
2. What is often added to make them lighter?
3. How do we know that bagels weren't invented by a Viennese baker?
4. What should bagels be like on the inside and on the outside?
5. What happened to the bagel company founded by the Lender family?
6. What do some people fill their bagels with?

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. Andy can't eat solid food at the moment. He fell while playing hockey and broke his _____.
2. This is fresh pasta so it only needs to be _____ for about four minutes.
3. Chloe's just been to the hairdresser's. Now she's got a fashionable _____ hairstyle.
4. I can't meet you at the café tonight. I'm going to the gym for a _____.
5. Could you check these accounts again, please? I think this _____ may be wrong.
6. If you want to lose weight, you should use a _____ in your coffee, instead of sugar.

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

Write one word only in each space.

London's first "beigel" bakery was founded in Brick Lane in East London over 165 years ago, when many Jewish people lived there. Over the centuries, successive waves of immigrants 1_____ arrived in the area. In the 17th century, large numbers of French Huguenot silk weavers had settled there to 2_____ from religious persecution in France. In the 19th and early 20th century, Ashkenazi Jews had arrived to work in the clothing industry that had grown up there and had brought their cooking traditions with them. 3_____ these were bagels, or beigels, as the word is usually spelt in East London.

The original beigel shop is still there in Brick Lane and is open twenty-four hours 4_____ day from Monday to Sunday. In the past, no shops or markets were 5_____ to open on Sundays, but the Jewish community was given a special dispensation. As a result, the area became famous for its Sunday markets, like Petticoat Lane.

6_____ Brick Lane is now the heart of the Bangladeshi community and is more famous for its many curry houses, there are still several beigel bakeries.

F – Write about it

Write about the most popular traditional bakery in your town or area. Mention:

- where it's located;
- how old it is;
- who it's run by;
- what its specialities are;
- why its popular.

William Shakespeare (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Are there many theatres in your town?
2. Do you like going to the theatre? Why (not)?
3. Do you prefer films or plays? Why?
4. Have you ever seen any of Shakespeare's plays? If so, which ones?

B – Listen and answer

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

1. There are _____ manuscripts written by Shakespeare himself.
2. Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, in _____.
3. He got married at the age of _____.
4. Nothing is known about him till _____ years later, when he was in London.
5. He wrote 39 plays, _____ sonnets and 3 narrative poems.
6. He _____ at the age of 49.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What is Shakespeare often called?
2. What did Ben Jonson foresee about Shakespeare?
3. Why do we know so little about Shakespeare's life?
4. Which line of Shakespeare's is known all over the world?
5. What effect did he have on the English language?
6. What other fields besides literature have been influenced by his works?
7. Where did he spend his last years?
8. How old was he when he died?

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. We met a French _____ on the plane. They'd just got married and were on their honeymoon.
2. This isn't an _____ translation of the text. There are quite a lot of mistakes in it.
3. My cousin's a well-known actor. He's _____ in several theatrical productions in London.
4. Simon's wife is _____. The baby's expected in June.
5. Those birds flying over the lake must be _____, not geese. Look at their long necks!
6. Our local greengrocer's sells a lot of exotic fruit, _____ _____ mangoes and papayas.

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam? (Paper 1, Reading: Part 5)

Choose the correct word in brackets for each space.

Stratford-upon-Avon is only two hours from London by train, which makes it an ideal option for a day 1_____ (journey/voyage/travel/trip) for those who would like to find out more about Shakespeare and Tudor times.

In Henley Street, visitors can see the cottage in which Shakespeare is thought to 2_____ (have been/be/have/had) born. It consists of six rooms, and was both the family home and the place where William's father 3_____ (went/took/carried/got) on his business as a glovemaker.

Another interesting building is the Guildhall, which dates from 1417. From the 1560s 4_____ (forwards/onwards/towards/backwards), the first floor of the building was used as the King's New School. It is almost certainly the school that Shakespeare 5_____ (studied/attended/frequented/registered), as it was a free school and was just a short distance from his home.

Anne Hathaway's family home is about a mile from the centre of Stratford. It was occupied by the Hathaway family for 13 generations, 6_____ (until/since/unless/while) the last descendant left it in 1911.

F – Write about it

Write about one of your country's most important writers of the past. Include information about:

- his/her biography;
- what kind of works he/she wrote;
- his/her most famous works.

Paddington Station (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. How often do you travel by train?
2. Is there a railway station in your town or village?
3. If so, is it a large station? Where can you get to from it?
4. Which is the most important railway station in your country's capital?

B – Listen and answer

Read these incomplete statements. Then listen (without reading) and fill in the blanks.

1. Paddington Station was opened in _____.
2. It connected London to the city of _____, in the west.
3. The original building was made of iron and _____.
4. Queen Victoria used the station to travel to _____.
5. The station once had stables for _____ horses.
6. The first underground line started at Paddington. It was called the _____ Line.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Why did Brunel, the designer of Paddington Station, wear such tall hats?
2. What was used to light the station when it first opened?
3. What comparison is used to show how important railway stations were in the 19th century?
4. What special facility did Queen Victoria have when she travelled from Paddington?
5. What has it been turned into?
6. Why was it necessary to keep hundreds of horses at the station?
7. How many underground lines are connected to Paddington Station at present?
8. What has enabled improvements to be made to the station?

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. We _____ at 6 in the morning but we didn't arrive at our destination till midnight.
2. Some people can't eat _____ products because they are allergic to milk proteins.
3. Joe had a coffee in the departure _____ while he was waiting for his flight to be called.
4. The new supermarket in the High Street has a free _____ car park.
5. Our bathroom's very small, so when we have a shower it fills up with _____.
6. The government has started a couple of new _____ to help young people start a business.

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. Paddington Station was designed by the _____ (ENGINE) Isambard Kingdom Brunel.
2. Some of Britain's most _____ (STUN) architecture can be found in railway stations.
3. Important _____ (DATE) were made to the station in the 1870s, 1910s and 1960s.
4. Brunel's original design is still _____ (RECOGNISE) to passengers arriving at the station.
5. The Great Western Hotel, built next to the station, was the _____ (GRAND) in London.
6. Multi-storey stables were another important _____ (ADD) to the station.
7. Brunel would have been _____ (DELIGHT) to hear about the regeneration of the area.
8. The station will once again be _____ (WORTH) of being one of the gateways to London.

F – Write about it

Write about a large station in a city in your country. Mention:

- where it's located;
- when it was built;
- what it looks like;
- what facilities it has;
- how well connected it is.

E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial (C1 - Advanced)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you like science-fiction films?
2. If so, which is your favourite?
3. What do you know about Steven Spielberg?
4. Have you seen his film E.T.? If so, what did you think of it?
5. Can you name any other Spielberg films?

B – Listen and answer

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

1. E.T. was similar to Steven Spielberg’s earlier films.
2. The human protagonists of the story are three children whose parents are divorced.
3. The alien they encounter is a scientist.
4. Making the film turned Spielberg against the idea of having a family.
5. For artist Carlo Rambaldi, this was a first attempt at inventing a creature from another planet.
6. Spielberg had the idea for the film while he was on holiday in Tunisia.
7. Spielberg’s experiences as a child made him able to empathise with Elliot, the main character.
8. He feels that Elliot and E.T. bonded because they needed each other.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What was different about the film’s treatment of its young audiences?
2. What was Spielberg influenced by at the time when he decided to make the movie?
3. How did he adapt his filming methods to suit the age of the actors?
4. What special powers does E.T. have?
5. What explanation is there for the continued popularity of the film?
6. What part of another film inspired Spielberg to create E.T.?
7. What was Melissa Mathison’s initial reaction to getting involved in the writing of the screenplay?
8. How does Spielberg define the film?

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 subject, or change from singular to plural.)

1. Sarah was sure she’d seen that actor in another film, but she couldn’t _____ which one.
2. Our new manager is popular because she’s very practical and _____.
3. You need to call a builder. This wall doesn’t look safe. A number of the _____ are loose.
4. Jake’s mother didn’t approve of his girlfriend because she came from a poor _____.
5. The Lord of the Rings trilogy was _____ on location in New Zealand.
6. I searched everywhere for my passport and _____ found it in the pocket of my suitcase.

E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test? (Reading and Use of English, Part 4)

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. Use between 3 and 6 words including the word given.

Example: The events of the film take place in a California suburb.

SET The film is set in a California suburb.

1. Elliot finds life difficult because his father is absent.

STRUGGLES Elliot _____ of his father.

2. In speaking directly to young audiences, E.T. differed from other movies of the time.

SPOKE E.T. _____, _____ other movies of the time.

3. The alien is an intergalactic botanist. Elliot later gives him the name E.T.

NAMES The alien, _____, is an intergalactic botanist.

4. Under President Ronald Reagan, the US government spent less on space programs.

SPENDINGUS President Ronald Reagan had _____ on space programs.

5. Like children, E.T. is curious and is open to learning.

HAS E.T. _____ and an openness to learn.

6. Harrison Ford persuaded his wife to write the screenplay for E.T.

TALKEDHarrison Ford _____ writing the screenplay for E.T.

F – Talk about it

In pairs or groups.

1. Do you believe that there was once life on other planets in our solar system? If so, which ones?
 2. Do you think there's probably life on planets outside our solar system? If so, what kind of life?
 3. In your opinion, will it be possible for humans to live on other planets one day?
 4. Would you like to travel to other planets? Why (not)?
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Answers (A Short History of Bagels B1 - Lower Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. F – They are made/mass-produced by machines.
2. F – Between 2 and 10 million are sold every day.
3. T
4. T
5. F – They arrived in the United States in the 19th century.
6. T
7. T
8. F – The number of calories in a bagel has more than doubled in the last 20 years.

C – Read and answer

1. They are made with flour, yeast, salt and a sweetener.
2. Egg, milk and butter.
3. Because they are mentioned in written accounts in Poland in 1610.
4. They should be crusty on the outside and chewy on the inside.
5. It was bought by Kraft Foods in 1984.
6. Some people fill them with cream cheese and salmon.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. jaw
2. boiled
3. sleek
4. workout
5. figure
6. sweetener

E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test?

1. had
 2. escape/flee
 3. Among
 4. a/per
 5. allowed/permitted
 6. Although/Though
-

Answers (William Shakespeare B1 - Lower Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. no
2. 1564
3. 18/eighteen
4. 8/eight
5. 154
6. retired

C – Read and answer

1. He's often called "the Bard of Avon".
2. That he would never be forgotten because his works are timeless.
3. Because he left no diaries and had no direct descendants.
4. "To be or not to be".
5. He introduced over 1,700 original words into English, as well as 80 phrases still in current use.
6. He has also influenced art, music and even psychiatry.
7. He spent them in Stratford-upon-Avon.
8. He was 52.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. couple
2. accurate
3. performed
4. pregnant
5. swans
6. such as

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?

1. trip
 2. have been
 3. carried
 4. onwards
 5. attended
 6. until
-

Answers (Paddington Station - Upper Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. 1854
2. Bristol
3. glass
4. Windsor Castle
5. 600/six hundred
6. Metropolitan

C – Read and answer

1. Because he was tiny and wearing a tall hat was a way to compensate for this.
2. Gas was used to light it.
3. Railway stations in the 19th century are compared to monasteries and cathedrals in the 13th century.
4. She had her own luxurious waiting room.
5. It's been turned into a first-class passenger lounge.
6. They were needed to deliver goods that had arrived at the station, like packages and fresh milk.
7. Five lines are connected to it, including the newly-opened Elizabeth Line.
8. The station has received part of the £10 million budget for the regeneration of the Paddington area.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. set off 2. dairy 3. lounge 4. multi-storey 5. steam 6. schemes

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. engineer 2. stunning 3. updates 4. recognisable 5. grandest 6. addition 7. delighted 8. worthy

Answers (E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial C1 - Advanced)**B – Listen and answer**

1. F – Compared to his previous films, it was very down-to-earth and it had children as its protagonists. 2. T 3. T 4. F – He was against having a family, but while making the film he changed his mind. 5. F – He had already made the creature in the film Alien. 6. F – He was making a film there. 7. T 8. Tthy

C – Read and answer

1. It treated them with respect, the way adult audiences are usually treated. 2. He was influenced by the political context. 3. The film was shot in chronological order and the camera was placed at their height. They were also allowed to adlib. 4. He can heal and bring dying plants back to life. 5. It continues to move people of all ages and backgrounds. 6. The end of Close Encounters of the Third Kind. 7. She was reluctant to get involved in it. 8. He defines it as a rescue movie.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. recall 2. down-to-earth 3. bricks 4. background 5. shot 6. eventually

E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test?

1. struggles with the absence/struggles because of the absence 2. spoke directly to young audiences, unlike 3. who/whom Elliot later names E.T. 4. reduced/cut government spending 5. has a childlike curiosity 6. talked his wife into