

Life's Greatest Pleasures

Just what are life's greatest pleasures? Is it popping bubble wrap or maybe watching a DVD? Perhaps it's even your mum's cooking or waking up in a room with an amazing view? Of course, there are many ideas and what may be good for one may be different for others. So just what are the little thrills we all enjoy? Batchelors Cup-a-Soup in Britain has compiled a top 50 list of suggestions sent in by 3,000 people. The top three suggestions were cuddling up with a partner in bed; finding a forgotten tenner in your pocket; and topping the list was a good night's sleep. Insomniacs everywhere will agree! Many Brits like to laugh at things that have happened in the past. They also like catching up with old friends, as well as making someone smile. I am sure that anyone would agree there is nothing like sleeping in newly laundered laundry or even having a lie-in. The list suggests the moments we love are unsurprisingly the ones we share with others, such as catching up with old friends, girlie nights in, or looking through old photo albums.

The list offers some surprises, like receiving a letter from a friend or discovering you've lost weight, or realising the queue you're in at the supermarket is moving the quickest! The British, it appears, like to take lunch with friends, have breakfast in bed, and eat a Sunday roast with the family. They also like playing in the snow, browsing in second-hand bookshops and finding the perfect fit of jeans! Some Brits like the first snowfall of the year while others prefer eating a takeaway. Others like watching a live band. A popular choice was waking up thinking it's a work day and realising it's the weekend. Brits also like curling up on the sofa with a good book and a hot drink, drinking a cold beer after work and getting tipsy! Oddly Brits like the smell of freshly cut grass! British people also like to sing their heart out to their favourite song playing on the radio in their car! I am sure most car drivers secretly do this! So there are a few of the top 50 choices made by the Brits. The question is what are your greatest pleasures that money simply can't buy?

Category: Living / Survey / Life's Greatest Pleasures

Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

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The top 50 list of life's greatest pleasures:

(50) Popping bubble wrap; (49) Getting tipsy; (48) Watching a DVD; (47) The cold side of a pillow; (46) Your queue being the quickest at the supermarket; (45) Getting a new hairstyle; (44) Going to the cinema; (43) Browsing in a second-hand bookshop; (42) Drinking a cold beer after work; (41) Watching a band live; (40) Getting dressed up for a night out; (39) Your mum's cooking; (38) Staying up all night getting to know someone special; (37) Fitting into an old pair of jeans again after losing some weight; (36) Waking up in a room with an amazing view; (35) Clothes shopping; (34) Waking up in a room with an amazing view; (33) Looking at a baby asleep in a cot; (32) Sitting in a pub with your friends; (31) The smell of freshly cut grass; (30) A pampering session at home; (29) A girlie night in; (28) Being chatted up; (27) Finding a pair of jeans that fit perfectly; (26) Playing in the snow; (25) Reading a book or listening to your iPod on holiday by the pool; (24) Having a massage; (23) Listening to a baby laughing; (22) Having lunch with friends; (21) Singing your heart out to your favourite song in the car; (20) First snowfall of the year; (19) Eating a takeaway; (18) Looking through old photo albums; (17) A random person smiling at you in the street; (16) Waking up thinking it's a work day and realising it's the weekend; (15) Breakfast in bed; (14) Discovering you've lost a few pounds; (13) Curling up on the sofa with a good book and a hot drink; (12) Someone saying you look nice!; (11) Eating a Sunday roast with your family; (10) Laughing at things that have happened in the past; (9) Catching up with an old friend; (8) Making someone smile; (7) Getting a bargain; (6) Sleeping in newly laundered laundry; (5) Having a lie-in; (4) Crying with laughter; (3) Cuddling up with a partner in bed; (2) Finding a forgotten tenner in your pocket!; (1) A good night's sleep.

EXERCISES

1. Greatest pleasures in life: What are your top three greatest pleasures in life? Go round the room swapping details.

2. Dictation: The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page two filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty we need to do some work!

3. Reading: The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

4. Vocabulary: Students now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

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5. **The article:** Students look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?

6. **Let's think!** Choose five greatest pleasures you like from the article. Then add five of your own. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these?

Five G.P. from the article	Five G.P. of your own
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their stories in front of the class.

7. **Let's tell a story!** Using the list prepare a short story about 'life's greatest pleasures' then tell it to your partner.

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their stories in front of the class.

8. **Let's chat!** In pairs. One of you rings your fellow student who is in another country on your mobile or on Skype! Chat about a survey you have just read about in your English lesson about 'life's greatest pleasures'. There is a bad line. *5-minutes*.

9. **Let's debate:** In pairs. Students A think life's greatest pleasures are important. Students B think otherwise. Explain why.

10. **Let's do 'The Article Quiz':** Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score 1 point for each correct answer, and ½ point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) Name the soup company.
- 2) How many people responded?
- 3) What is the No 1 pleasure?
- 4) What were some of 'the surprises'?
- 5) What do Brits do in the car?

Student B

- 1) What is an insomniac?
- 2) In what country was the list done in?
- 3) What are 'the moments we love'?
- 4) What is a 'Sunday roast'?
- 5) What is a 'girlie night in'?

11. **Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **Life's Greatest Pleasures**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

12. **Let's think!** Swap partners. With your new partner on the board write as many words to do with: **Life's Greatest Pleasures** as you can. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

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13. Let's write! Spend five minutes writing a short article on: **Life's Greatest Pleasures**. Students might be asked to read their passage aloud.

14. Sentence starters: Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) My top three _____
- b) I like to _____
- c) The survey _____
- d) My favourite _____

15. Quick-fire: The teacher goes around the room and asks the class, "**Life's Greatest Pleasures** include..."

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Be honest, do you like popping bubble wrap?
- 3) What smells do you like?
- 4) What smells do you dislike?
- 5) How often do you sing your heart out to your favourite song in your car?
- 6) Do you like a girlie night in?
- 7) When did you last play in the snow?
- 8) How often do you read a book by the pool?
- 9) How often do you have lunch with friends?
- 10) When did a random person last smile at you on the street?

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS

- 1) What brand of soup is your favourite?
- 2) When did you last catch up with an old friend?
- 3) Have you ever found a forgotten tenner in your pocket?
- 4) Do you like a good night's sleep?
- 5) When was the last time you went to the theatre and saw a *play* live?
- 6) Do you ever eat lunch with your family on a Sunday? If yes, what do you normally eat?
- 7) When was the first snowfall this year?
- 8) When was the last time you had breakfast in bed?
- 9) How often do you curl up on the sofa with a good book and a hot drink?
- 10) What brand of soups do you like?

GAP FILL: READING

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

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Just what are life's greatest (1)_____? Is it popping bubble wrap or maybe watching a DVD? Perhaps it's even your mum's cooking or waking up in a room with an amazing view? Of course, there are many ideas and what may be good for one may be different for others. So just what are the little (2)_____ we all enjoy? Batchelors Cup-a-Soup in Britain has compiled a top 50 list of suggestions sent in by 3,000 people. The top three (3)_____ were cuddling up with a partner in bed; finding a forgotten tenner in your pocket; and topping the list was a good night's sleep. (4)_____ everywhere will agree! Many Brits like to laugh at things that have happened in the past. They also like catching up with old friends, as well as making someone (5)_____. I am sure that anyone would agree there is nothing like sleeping in newly laundered (6)_____ or even having a lie-in. The (7)_____ suggests the moments we (8)_____ are unsurprisingly the ones we share with others, such as catching up with old friends, girlie nights in, or looking through old photo albums.

The list offers some surprises, like receiving a letter from a friend or discovering you've lost (1)_____, or realising the (2)_____ you're in at the supermarket is moving the quickest! The British, it appears, like to take lunch with friends, have breakfast in bed, and eat a Sunday (3)_____ with the family. They also like playing in the snow, browsing in second-hand bookshops and finding the perfect fit of jeans! Some Brits like the first snowfall of the year while others prefer eating a (4)_____. Others like watching a live band. A popular choice was waking up thinking it's a work day and realising it's the weekend. Brits also like curling up on the (5)_____ with a good book and a hot drink, drinking a cold beer after work and getting (6)_____! Oddly Brits like the smell of freshly cut (7)_____! British people also like to sing their heart out to their favourite song playing on the radio in their car! I am sure most car drivers secretly do this! So there are a few of the top 50 (8)_____ made by the Brits. The question is what are your greatest pleasures that money simply can't buy?

smile

laundry

list

suggestions

love

thrills

insomniacs

pleasures

choices

roast

tipsy

weight

grass

sofa

queue

takeaway

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

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GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

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(1)___ what are life's greatest pleasures? Is it popping bubble wrap or maybe watching a DVD? Perhaps it's even your mum's cooking or waking up in a room with an amazing view? Of course, there are many ideas and what may be good for one may be different for others. So just (2)___ are the little thrills we all enjoy? Batchelors Cup-a-Soup in Britain has compiled a top 50 list of suggestions sent in by 3,000 people. The top three suggestions were cuddling up with a partner in bed; finding a forgotten tenner in (3)___ pocket; and topping the list was a good night's sleep. Insomniacs everywhere will agree! Many Brits like to laugh at things (4)___ have happened in the past. They also like catching up with old friends, as well as making someone smile. I am sure that anyone would agree there is nothing like sleeping in newly laundered laundry or (5)___ having a lie-in. The list suggests the moments we love are unsurprisingly the ones we share (6)___ others, (7)___ catching up with old friends, girlie nights in, or looking (8)___ old photo albums.

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings:
Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20

1	favourite	11	browsing
2	popping	12	breakfast
3	different	13	insomniacs
4	thrills	14	tipsy
5	forgotten	15	laundry
6	pocket	16	wrap
7	weight	17	realising
8	simply	18	bookshop
9	tenner	19	supermarket
10	roast	20	sure

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