

The top 50 things we love best about Britain

Today we will look at the top 50 things British people like best about Britain. Topping the top 50 list at number one is the tasty bacon butty (or bacon sandwich) filled with lots of ketchup. A traditional roast dinner took second place while a nice cup of tea made number three. Certainly, a good hot cuppa helps wash down a hot bacon butty. A total of 60,000 Brits took part in the T-Mobile survey, which shows Britain is a nation of food lovers. Having said that British history comes in at number four followed by the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation), Big Ben in sixth and Buckingham Palace in seventh position. Brits like their rolling hills which makes eighth spot. Next we're back to food with fish and chips and Yorkshire Pudding coming in ninth and tenth respectively.

Surprisingly, cheese is a greater treasure than the British monarch, with Cheddar coming in at 13th while the Queen trailed behind in 15th position. Brits like their cars, with Aston Martin making 17th place. Brits prefer secret agent James Bond (32nd) to boy wizard Harry Potter (38th). Showing that the quirkiness of Brits is alive and well, that most alternative of 'sports' – cheese rolling made the 50th spot. This is where participants chase a whole Gloucestershire cheese down a steep hill!

Spencer McHugh, a T-Mobile spokesperson: "When it comes to our great loves food is clearly on top and whether it's a butty, bun or sanger* the trusty bacon sandwich is a worthy winner of the top spot". He added, "Whether we're eating it between bread or rolling it down a hill it's obvious that we are a nation of food lovers."

As you can see the list covers many typically British things. For example red buses, cricket, real ale and black cabs. Yet it also shows British tradition e.g. ice cream vans, red telephone boxes and driving on the left. History is reflected with the inclusion of Shakespeare, the Houses of Parliament and the Pound! As this is an English lesson I should mention No 46 on the list – The Queen's English! Is this how you speak English?

(see page 2 for the top 50 list)

(*see page 8)

Category: Survey / Britain / Marketing
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

The top 50 things we love about Britain – 20th February 2012

The top 50 things we love best about Britain list:-

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Bacon sandwiches | 26. The Pound |
| 2. Roast dinners | 27. Black cabs |
| 3. Cup of tea | 28. The Beatles |
| 4. British history | 29. The coastline |
| 5. BBC | 30. Bargains |
| 6. Big Ben | 31. Shakespeare |
| 7. Buckingham Palace | 32. James Bond |
| 8. Countryside | 33. Red phone boxes |
| 9. Fish & Chips | 34. Football |
| 10. Yorkshire Pudding | 35. Crumpets |
| 11. English fry up | 36. The Houses of Parliament |
| 12. British sense of humour | 37. Red buses |
| 13. Cheese | 38. Harry Potter |
| 14. Lake District | 39. Ice cream vans |
| 15. The Queen | 40. The Red Arrows |
| 16. Sunday lunch | 41. Driving on the left |
| 17. Aston Martin | 42. Cricket |
| 18. Cornish pasties | 43. Concorde |
| 19. Stonehenge | 44. Real ale |
| 20. National Heritage | 45. The Royal Family |
| 21. Pubs | 46. The Queen's English |
| 22. The Tower of London | 47. Festivals |
| 23. Wimbledon | 48. Stephen Fry |
| 24. Baking | 49. Harrods |
| 25. Strawberries and cream | 50. Cheese Rolling |

EXERCISES

1. **Britain:** What three things do you love about Britain? Go round the room swapping details with others.

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 one - 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 - you need to do some work!

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

4. **Vocabulary:** Students should 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.

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

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?
- c) Discuss the top 50 list.

6. **Geography: Britain:** What countries make up Britain (Great Britain)? Where is it in the world? What is its capital? What river flows through its capital? Draw a map on the board then **look on Google maps** to help you.

7. **Things we love about Britain:** In pairs choose from the article the top five things you love about Britain. Then add your 'own' top five choices. Write them below. Discuss together.

From the article	Your top five choices
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

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

8. **Let's roleplay 1:** In pairs/groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Britain FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *The Top 50 things we love best about Britain*.

1	An Englishman	3	A Scotsman
3	A Welshman	4	A tourist

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9. Let's think! In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with **Britain**. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

10. Let's roleplay 2: In pairs. You are in a pub in London talking. You are with a friend. Start a conversation about *Britain*. *5-minutes*.

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

Student A

- 1) Name the company that did the survey.
- 2) How many people took part in the survey?
- 3) What was number one in the survey?
- 4) What was number three in the survey?
- 5) Who is Spencer McHugh?

Student B

- 1) How is British tradition shown in the article?
- 2) What rolls in at number 50 in the list?
- 3) At what number is Harry Potter?
- 4) What does BBC stand for?
- 5) What is Big Ben?

12. Lets make an advert! In pairs or small groups create one of the following:

A 30 second *radio advert* about 'The top 10 things we love best about our country'

The teacher will choose some pairs/groups to hear it in front of the class.

13. Presentation: In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a two minute presentation on: **The top 20 things we love best about our country**. Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation to the class. The class can vote on the best presentation. Class – After the presentations go through the good and weak points on each presentation. Learn from the results.

14. Let's write an e-mail: Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **The top 10 things we love best about our country**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

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

- a) The top 50 _____
- b) I would choose _____
- c) I love Britain _____

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What three things do you like about Britain?
- 3) What three things don't you like about Britain?
- 4) Have you been to London? If yes, explain.
- 5) Have you ever used a red phone box in Britain?
- 6) What do you think of the British countryside?
- 7) What do you think of the British sense of humour?
- 8) Have you ever been to Stonehenge?
- 9) Have you ever seen The Queen in person?
- 10) Can you speak the Queens English?

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?
- 3) What three things do you like about your country?
- 4) What three things don't you like about your country?
- 5) Have you been to Britain? If yes, explain.
- 6) Have you ever rolled a cheese?
- 7) Do you drink tea? If yes, what is your favourite blend?
- 8) Do you like to eat a bacon sandwich? If no, explain why not.
- 9) Have you ever tried British fish and chips?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's discuss! The top 20 things we love best about our country

Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

The top 20 things we love about our country

The teacher can moderate the session.

GAP FILL: READING:

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The top 50 things we love best about Britain

Today we will look at the top 50 things British people like best about Britain. Topping the top 50 list at number one is the (1)_____ bacon (2)_____ (or bacon sandwich) filled with lots of ketchup. A traditional (3)_____ dinner took second place while a (4)_____ cup of tea made number three. Certainly, a good hot (5)_____ helps wash down a hot bacon butty. A total of 60,000 Brits took part in the T-Mobile survey, which shows Britain is a nation of food lovers. Having said that British (6)_____ comes in at number four followed by the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation), Big Ben in sixth and Buckingham Palace in seventh position. Brits like their rolling (7)_____ which makes eighth spot. Next we're back to food with fish and chips and Yorkshire Pudding coming in ninth and tenth (8)_____.

nice

respectively

hills

roast

cuppa

history

butty

tasty

Surprisingly, cheese is a greater (1)_____ than the British monarch, with Cheddar coming in at 13th while the Queen trailed behind in 15th position. Brits like their cars, with Aston Martin making 17th place. Brits prefer secret agent James Bond (32nd) to boy (2)_____ Harry Potter (38th). Showing that the (3)_____ of Brits is alive and well, that most (4)_____ of 'sports' – cheese rolling made the 50th spot. This is where participants chase a whole Gloucestershire cheese down a steep hill!

sandwich

winner

alternative

wizard

nation

quirkiness

treasure

sanger

Spencer McHugh, a T-Mobile spokesperson: "When it comes to our great loves food is clearly on top and whether it's a butty, bun or (5)_____ the trusty bacon (6)_____ is a worthy (7)_____ of the top spot". He added, "Whether we're eating it between bread or rolling it down a hill it's obvious that we are a (8)_____ of food lovers."

GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The top 50 things we love best about Britain

Today (1)___ will look at the top 50 things British people like best about Britain. Topping the top 50 list (2)___ number one is (3)___ tasty bacon butty ((4)___ bacon sandwich) filled with lots of ketchup. A traditional roast dinner took second place while (5)___ nice cup of tea made number three. Certainly, a good hot cuppa helps wash down a hot bacon butty. A total of 60,000 Brits took part in the T-Mobile survey, which shows Britain is a nation (6)___ food lovers. Having said that British history comes in at number four followed by the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation), Big Ben in sixth (7)___ Buckingham Palace in seventh position. Brits like their rolling hills which makes eighth spot. Next we're back to food with fish and chips and Yorkshire Pudding coming (8)___ ninth and tenth respectively.

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Surprisingly, cheese is a greater treasure (1)___ the British monarch, with Cheddar coming in at 13th (2)___ the Queen trailed behind in 15th position. Brits like (3)___ cars, with Aston Martin making 17th place. Brits prefer secret agent James Bond (32nd) to boy wizard Harry Potter (38th). Showing that the quirkiness of Brits is alive and well, that (4)___ alternative of 'sports' – cheese rolling made the 50th spot. (5)___ is (6)___ participants chase a whole Gloucestershire cheese down a steep hill!

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this

than

while

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when

Spencer McHugh, a T-Mobile spokesperson: "(7)___ it comes to our great loves food is clearly on top and whether it's a butty, bun or sanger the trusty bacon sandwich is a worthy winner of the top spot". He added, "Whether we're eating it between bread or rolling it down a hill it's obvious (8)___ we are a nation of food lovers."



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	tasty	11	prefer
2	yet	12	surprisingly
3	typically	13	ketchup
4	obvious	14	tradition
5	position	15	inclusion
6	bacon butty	16	worthy
7	survey	17	trusty
8	quirkiness	18	monarch
9	spokesperson	19	treasure
10	whether	20	respectively

Note: a sanger = a sandwich!

A Quirk = an individual peculiarity of character; mannerism or foible

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