

## Traditional English tea losing popularity in UK

27th April 2023



British people are big tea drinkers. It is a tradition in Britain to drink tea for different occasions and reasons. People have it for breakfast, for when guests visit, and for tea breaks at work. People even "have a cuppa" when they talk about their personal problems.

However, research from The Tea Group shows that herbal, fruit and other teas have become more popular than traditional English breakfast tea. Researchers conducted a survey of more than 2,000 tea lovers. Over half of people said their favourite tea was not the traditional variety. Over a fifth of people chose green tea as their favourite brew. Just over 20 per cent said Earl Grey was their number one.

Sales of traditional tea in the U.K. have been declining. Three years ago, a survey found that 54 per cent of Britons preferred English breakfast tea. The new research shows that breakfast tea is likely to continue to decline in popularity. The researchers found many other things about tea-drinking habits in the U.K. The biggest reason for drinking tea was to relax. A quarter of Britons drink up to 10 cups a day. Brits seem to love milky and sugary tea. Around 85 per cent of people who drink Earl Grey and English breakfast put milk in it. Nearly 45 per cent of people sweeten their tea with sugar. Amazingly, people with a sweet tooth put three teaspoons of sugar in their cup.

Sources:  
[yougov.co.uk](http://yougov.co.uk) / [independent.co.uk](http://independent.co.uk) / [retailtimes.co.uk](http://retailtimes.co.uk)

### Writing

Tea is better than coffee. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

British people / tea / tradition / breakfast / personal problems / survey / number one / research / three years ago / popularity / habits / cups / milk / sugar / sweet tooth

### True / False

- 1) British people drink tea when they talk about their problems. T / F
- 2) Researchers interviewed over 2,000 people who love tea. T / F
- 3) The most popular tea in the UK is green tea. T / F
- 4) A fifth of people in a survey said Earl Grey was their favourite tea. T / F
- 5) Sales of traditional tea have been going down in the UK. T / F
- 6) Research shows English tea will become more popular from now. T / F
- 7) Half of people in the UK drink 10 cups of tea a day. T / F
- 8) Some people in the UK have three tablespoons of sugar in their tea. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>tradition</b> | a. probable    |
| 2. <b>visit</b>     | b. carried out |
| 3. <b>popular</b>   | c. explanation |
| 4. <b>conducted</b> | d. stop by     |
| 5. <b>variety</b>   | e. roughly     |
| 6. <b>declining</b> | f. kind        |
| 7. <b>likely</b>    | g. custom      |
| 8. <b>reason</b>    | h. falling     |
| 9. <b>seem</b>      | i. well liked  |
| 10. <b>around</b>   | j. appear      |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of tea?
- b) Are you a big tea drinker?
- c) What do you prefer to drink for breakfast?
- d) What drink do you serve your guests?
- e) What's the best kind of tea?
- f) What do you think of green tea?
- g) Which is better, tea or coffee?
- h) What are the health benefits of tea?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. British people are big                    | a. and sugary tea       |
| 2. a tradition in Britain to drink tea for   | b. at work              |
| 3. tea breaks                                | c. their favourite brew |
| 4. conducted a survey of more than 2,000 tea | d. sweet tooth          |
| 5. people chose green tea as                 | e. different occasions  |
| 6. Sales of traditional tea                  | f. their tea with sugar |
| 7. continue to decline                       | g. tea drinkers         |
| 8. Brits seem to love milky                  | h. in the U.K.          |
| 9. people sweeten                            | i. lovers               |
| 10. people with a                            | j. in popularity        |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How important is tea in your life?
- Is hot or iced tea best?
- Is it OK to put milk and sugar in tea?
- What's the best way to make a cup of tea?
- How many cups of tea or coffee do you drink a day?
- How much of a sweet tooth do you have?
- What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

## Spelling

- drink tea for different ocsaainsco
- for when sutegs visit
- talk about their neplsaro problems
- Researchers conducted a vsruey
- the traditional ivryate
- their favourite brew
- Britons feeeprrdr English breakfast tea
- llekyi to continue
- decline in olutypraip
- tea-drinking bashti
- A grutrea of Britons
- people wnsetee their tea with sugar

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. f
6. h	7. a	8. c	9. j	10. e

## Role Play

### Role A – Tea

You think tea is the best drink. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their drinks. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): milk, water or cola.

### Role B – Milk

You think milk is the best drink. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their drinks. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): tea, water or cola.

### Role C – Water

You think water is the best drink. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their drinks. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): milk, tea or cola.

### Role D – Cola

You think cola is the best drink. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their drinks. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): milk, water or tea.

## Speaking –

Rank these with your partner. Put the best drinks at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| • English tea | • Orange juice |
| • Coffee      | • Cola         |
| • Milk        | • Green tea    |
| • Water       | • Red Bull     |

### Answers – True False

1	T	2	T	3	F	4	T	5	T	6	F	7	F	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.