

Tap water as good as bottled water (Sun 27 Mar, 2005)

WARM-UPS

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about Evian/ Perrier / tap water / water / fluoride / wasting money / value for money / ...Change topic / partner frequently to increase conversation.

WATER BRAINSTORM: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'water'. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

VALUE FOR MONEY? Many people buy mineral water believing it is healthier than tap water. Mineral water is certainly more expensive. Are expensive goods better than cheaper or free alternatives? In pairs / groups, discuss which you would choose:

- a. Perrier or tap water
- b. CD or file sharing
- c. Louis Vuitton bag or \$80 bag
- d. Mickey Mouse T-shirt or \$2 discount store T-shirt
- e. Newspaper or Internet news (non-subscription)
- f. Buy a book or go to the library
- g. Nike running shoes or brand X
- h. Business class or economy
- i. Yahoo's \$20 2GB mail service or Yahoo's free 1GB service
- j. Free one-year guarantee or \$100 5-year warranty

OPINIONS: Talk about these with your partner.

- a. Bottled mineral water is healthier than tap water.
- b. You can't trust mineral water companies – they lie.
- c. This “mineral water is healthier” thing is just clever marketing.
- d. Tap water contains fluoride so it's better for our teeth.
- e. People who pay for drinking water are crazy.
- f. I drank the tap water in Bangkok – no problem.
- g. Carrying a plastic Evian bottle is a fashion statement, it goes with a backpack.
- h. Mineral water is called mineral water because it contains minerals. These are good for us.
- i. People who drink mineral water don't live longer.
- j. Where does the fizz come from in sparkling mineral water. Sorry, but that isn't natural.

PRE-READING IDEAS

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'mineral' and 'water'.

TRUE FALSE: Guess whether the following statements about the article are true or false:

- a. Bottled mineral water is a total waste of money. T / F
- b. A newspaper commissioned a study to compare tap water and mineral water. T / F
- c. There is little difference between tap water and bottled water. T / F
- d. Mineral water is much cleaner than tap water. T / F
- e. A researcher accepted the idea that mineral water is purer than tap water. T / F
- f. Tap water is better for your teeth than mineral water. T / F
- g. Bottled water contains lots of fluoride. T / F
- h. Bottled water can be 2,093 times more expensive than tap water. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| (a) wasting | suggested |
| (b) commissioned | notion |
| (c) analyzed | massive |
| (d) various | appointed |
| (e) rejected | throwing away |
| (f) idea | top |
| (g) indicated | dispelled |
| (h) excluded | tested |
| (i) huge | different |
| (j) leading | left out |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) People may be wasting | brands of mineral water |
| (b) there is little | brand |
| (c) various | difference |
| (d) the bottled water tested was no | better for your teeth |
| (e) rejected | different |
| (f) it's no | a litre |
| (g) tap water may be | their money |
| (h) huge | cleaner than the tap water |
| (i) the leading Australian | difference |
| (j) priced at \$1.60 | the idea |

GAP FILL

Tap water as good as bottled water

BNE: People may be _____ their money by buying bottled mineral water. A study commissioned by Australia's *Weekend Australian* newspaper _____ there is little difference between tap water and bottled water. Chemists from Sydney's University of Technology _____ the tap water in three Australian cities, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, as well as various brands of mineral water. Their _____ showed that the bottled water tested was no cleaner than tap water. The research leader, Dr Grant Hose _____ the idea that bottled water was purer than the tap variety. The *Weekend Australian* reports him as saying, "Tap water is as healthy for you as bottled water - it's no different." The research also _____ tap water may be better for your teeth as it contains fluoride, which is excluded from most bottled water. A huge difference _____ by the study was the relative price of mineral water. The newspaper reports the leading Australian brand, priced at \$1.60 a litre, is "209,333 _____ more than tap water, which in Melbourne costs 0.075 of a cent per litre".

results reveals rejected per cent indicated wasting highlighted analyzed

DISCUSSION:

- a. What was interesting in this article?
- b. Were you surprised by anything in this article?
- c. What do you know about the health benefits of mineral water?
- d. Do you prefer bottled water or mineral water?
- e. Is tap water bad for your health?
- f. Is one mineral water healthier than another?
- g. Do you drink water from the tap in foreign countries?
- h. Is the tap water in your country safe to drink?
- i. Is bottled water a reasonable price?
- j. Do you always think about value for money?
- k. Do you always believe the advertising of mineral water companies?
- l. Isn't bottled mineral water just another trendy part of modern life?
- m. If your government said your country's tap water is healthy to drink, would you believe them?
- n. Do you buy organic vegetables or free range eggs?
- o. What did you like best about this discussion?
- p. Teacher / Student additional questions.

HOMEWORK

- 1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.
- 2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find information on the health benefits of mineral water. Share your findings with your class next lesson.
- 3. WATER EXEC.:** You are head of PERRIVIAN, a top selling mineral water company. Create an information poster about why your water is so good for our health.
- 4. WATER DIARY:** Write a diary for one day about all the times you use water.

TEXT

Tap water as good as bottled water

BNE: People may be **wasting** their money by buying bottled mineral water. A study commissioned by Australia's *Weekend Australian* newspaper **reveals** there is little difference between tap water and bottled water. Chemists from Sydney's University of Technology **analyzed** the tap water in three Australian cities, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, as well as various brands of mineral water. Their **results** showed that the bottled water tested was no cleaner than tap water. The research leader, Dr Grant Hose **rejected** the idea that bottled water was purer than the tap variety. The *Weekend Australian* reports him as saying, "Tap water is as healthy for you as bottled water - it's no different." The research also **indicated** tap water may be better for your teeth as it contains fluoride, which is excluded from most bottled water. A huge difference **highlighted** by the study was the relative price of mineral water. The newspaper reports the leading Australian brand, priced at \$1.60 a litre, is "209,333 **per cent** more than tap water, which in Melbourne costs 0.075 of a cent per litre".