

## French fries will be 3cm shorter

28th September, 2018



A poor potato harvest in Europe this summer could mean French fries are up to three centimeters shorter than usual. The poor harvest is because of the very hot summer Europe had. There were record hot temperatures in many countries. The

heatwave caused a lack of rain, which meant farmers produced a lot fewer potatoes than they normally do. Pierre Lebrun, a spokesman from a potato growers' association in Belgium, said farmers grew 25 per cent fewer potatoes than normal. The effect of this is that potato prices are up and the average size of potatoes is smaller. Mr Lebrun said: "Because the potatoes are smaller at the moment, we will all be eating smaller chips."

Belgium is one country where the potato shortage is a big talking point. Fries are the national dish in Belgium. The country has over 5,000 eateries specializing in fries. Belgians love their fries so much that there is a campaign to rename them "Belgian fries" instead of "French fries" because Belgians say the fry was invented in their country. Belgium is one of the largest exporters of frozen fries in the world. It exports around 2.3 million tons of them every year. Mr Lebrun explained why fries would be shorter. He said: "Generally, to have long fries, we work with potatoes with a diameter of more than 50mm. Then you get fries of 8 to 9 cm. This time, as the potatoes are smaller, the fries will be shorter."

### Sources:

[usatoday.com](http://usatoday.com) / [potatonewstoday.com](http://potatonewstoday.com) / [telegraph.co.uk](http://telegraph.co.uk)

## Writing

Potatoes are the most important food in the world. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

poor / harvest / centimeters / temperatures / heatwave / potatoes / effect / prices / shortage / national dish / specializing / campaign / frozen fries / exporters / time

## True / False

- a) French fries will be shorter because of poor potato harvests in the USA. T / F
- b) Farmers in Europe produced 25% fewer potatoes than usual. T / F
- c) The price of potatoes has increased and potatoes have got smaller. T / F
- d) French fries will be smaller because potatoes are smaller. T / F
- e) French fries are the national dish in Belgium. T / F
- f) There are 15,000 places that sell fries in Belgium. T / F
- g) People in Belgium prefer the name 'French fries'. T / F
- h) Potatoes with a diameter of 50mm give fries that are 18cm long. T / F

## Synonym Match

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

- |                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. <b>poor</b>      | a. drive     |
| 2. <b>usual</b>     | b. result    |
| 3. <b>lack</b>      | c. because   |
| 4. <b>effect</b>    | d. shortage  |
| 5. <b>average</b>   | e. described |
| 6. <b>dish</b>      | f. bad       |
| 7. <b>campaign</b>  | g. as a rule |
| 8. <b>explained</b> | h. standard  |
| 9. <b>generally</b> | i. food      |
| 10. <b>as</b>       | j. normal    |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) How important are potatoes?
- b) What do you think of French fries?
- c) What happens to farmers if there is a heatwave?
- d) How long should French fries be, and why?
- e) How often do you eat French fries?
- f) How has bad weather affected the food you eat?
- g) What is the best thing to eat French fries with?
- h) Is the term 'French fries' or 'chips' better?

## Phrase Match

- |                                       |                        |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. A poor potato                      | a. of 8 to 9 cm        |
| 2. three centimeters shorter          | b. of rain             |
| 3. There were record hot temperatures | c. size of potatoes    |
| 4. The heatwave caused a lack         | d. than usual          |
| 5. the average                        | e. "Belgian fries"     |
| 6. the potato shortage is             | f. more than 50mm      |
| 7. there is a campaign to rename them | g. a big talking point |
| 8. one of the largest exporters       | h. harvest in Europe   |
| 9. potatoes with a diameter of        | i. of frozen fries     |
| 10. Then you get fries                | j. in many countries   |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What food do people in your country talk about a lot?
- What do you think of your country's national dish?
- Should French fries be renamed 'Belgian fries'?
- What do you know about French fries?
- How do you make French fries?
- What can you do with a potato?
- What questions would you like to ask the potato growers' spokesman?

## Spelling

- A poor potato aerhvst in Europe
- three centimeters shorter than luasu
- There were roredc hot temperatures
- a potato growers' sataioocisn
- The ectffe of this
- the vgeraea size of potatoes
- the potato tgheorsa is a big talking point
- Fries are the naoiltan dish in Belgium
- a apmgaicn to rename them
- It ropxste around 2.3 million tons
- eanlregly, to have long fries
- a mirdetae of more than 50mm

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – French Fries

You think French fries are the best potato dish. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their dishes. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): hash browns, potato salad or roast potatoes.

### Role B – Hash Browns

You think hash browns are the best potato dish. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their dishes. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): French fries, potato salad or roast potatoes.

### Role C – Potato Salad

You think potato salad is the best potato dish. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their dishes. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): hash browns, French fries or roast potatoes.

### Role D – Roast Potato

You think roast potatoes are the best potato dish. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their dishes. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): hash browns, potato salad or French fries.

## Speaking – Potato Dishes

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

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| • Baked potato    | • French fries  |
| • Potato salad    | • Mashed potato |
| • Potato pancakes | • Roast potato  |
| • Boiled potatoes | • Hash browns   |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.