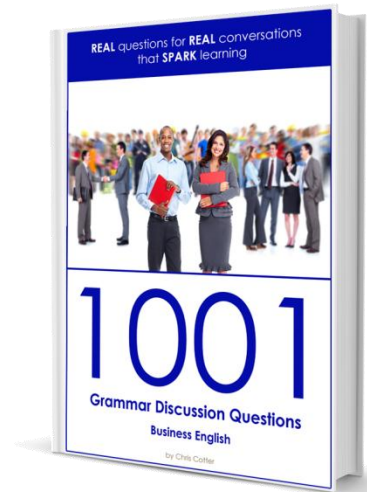
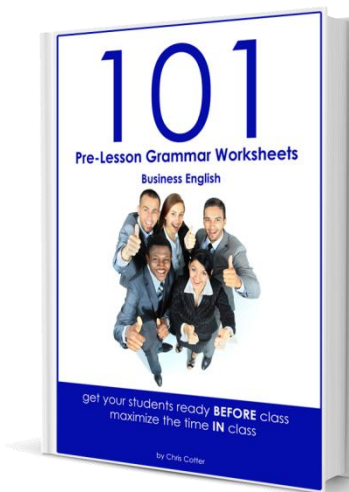
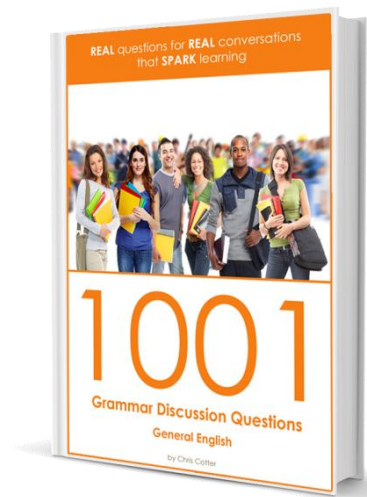
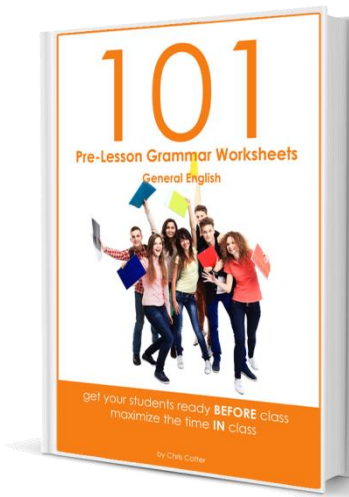
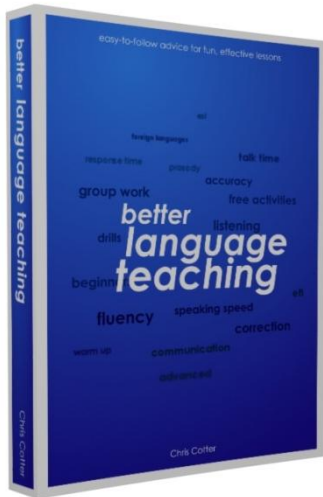


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# Skill Builders: Listening – Ice Cream: The Dessert of the World

Advanced

## INSTRUCTIONS

**Step 1:** You will listen to an article about ice cream. The article is a little more than four minutes long. Listen only, and don't worry about understanding everything.

**Step 2:** Read and understand the questions, then listen again. As you are listening, try to answer the questions in your head. Don't write the answers yet. Next, listen again and write the answers this time. Check your answers with a partner.

**Step 3:** Read the article. Check in your dictionary any unknown words. Now listen again. Can you understand more?

**Step 4:** Listen! Listen! Listen! Listen to the article on the train or in your free time. Each time you listen, you will slowly improve!

## QUESTIONS

**Answer the questions to check your comprehension. If you don't know an answer, don't worry. Skip it, then try to answer it when after you listen again.**

1: What were the earliest forms of ice cream like?

2: What does the article say about Marco Polo? Is it true?

3: What does the article say about Charles I? Is it true?

4: Why was ice cream such a rare treat through much of history?

5: What did early manufacturers do in the winter?

6: According to the article, what happened in the first twenty years of the twentieth century?

7: How much ice cream does the US consume?

8: What does the article say about those addicted to ice cream?

**Bonus Question:** Where would you expect to read an article like this? Why?

## the ARTICLE

What do you know about ice cream? Although you may think it a relatively new invention because it's a refrigerated dessert, your supposition would be wrong. It's surprisingly quite an old treat, with early origins reaching back thousands of years. Although this early form of ice cream shared greater similarities to present day shaved ice, possibly with fruit and honey drizzled on top, we can nevertheless consider these early desserts as precursors.

There are many myths surrounding the invention and popularization of the dessert. Some claim that ice cream was first invented by the Chinese, that Marco Polo brought the recipe and idea back from the East, that he and Roman Emperor Nero shared an ice cream cone together. Some claim that an Italian duchess popularized ice cream, introducing it to France upon her marriage. There is even a claim that Charles I of England paid off his chef to secret away the recipe, thereby making ice cream available only to the king and others who dined at his table. Of course, no hard evidence exists for any of these claims. In fact, they are all most likely bunk imagined for advertising gimmicks by ice cream makers and confectioners during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

No matter the true origins, ice cream remained a rare treat until modern times. Before the development of refrigeration, there was no way to produce ice without electricity. In addition, until the advent of faster methods of transport, ice could not be brought from colder to warmer climes during the spring and summer months. Ice might be cut from lakes during the winter months and stored for a period of time, for example, but the supply remained inevitably finite. Ice cream became somewhat more widespread in the mid-nineteenth century with improved transportation methods. In the US, for example, consumption rose from 5 million to 150 million gallons between 1899 and 1919. Yet it wasn't until the mid-twentieth century with the perfection of cheap and reliable electrical refrigeration that an explosion in consumption, as well as of brands and flavors, occurred.

Today ice cream is of course available in just about every corner of the globe, and is eaten in any season of the year. The US tops the list in consumption, with each person averaging six gallons per year. New Zealand and Australia follow closely behind. But even smaller countries in remoter areas of the world consume a lot of the dessert. And with the thousands of flavors available, those addicted can sample a new type each and every night for years and years and years. Ice cream is the dessert of the world.



# Skill Builders: Listening – Ice Cream: The Dessert of the World

Advanced

## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES (optional)

1: Which paragraph was the easiest to listen to? Which paragraph was the most difficult? Look at the vocabulary and sentence structure, then think why one paragraph was easy and another difficult.

2: Can you summarize the article? Don't worry about all the details, but briefly mention in a sentence or two the key points.

3: Which vocabulary words were unfamiliar? Were you able to understand them through context, or did you have to check a dictionary. Write these words here and give examples.

4: What do you know about ice cream that wasn't mentioned in the article? How about other desserts and/or snacks? Talk with a partner.

## ANSWERS

### QUESTIONS

- 1: This early form of ice cream shared greater similarities to present day shaved ice
- 2: That Marco Polo brought the recipe and idea back from the East, and shared an ice cream cone together with the Roman Emperor Nero. This isn't true.
- 3: Charles I of England paid off his chef to secret away the recipe, thereby making ice cream available only to the king and others who dined at his table. This isn't true.
- 4: Before the development of refrigeration, there was no way to produce ice without electricity. In addition, ice could not be brought from colder to warmer climes during the spring and summer months.
- 5: Ice might be cut from lakes during the winter months and stored for a period of time
- 6: Consumption rose from 5 million to 150 million gallons between 1899 and 1919.
- 7: Each person in the US averages six gallons per year.
- 8: Those addicted can sample a new type each every night for years and years because there are thousands of flavors available.