

World Pasta Day

Intermediate level

Warm-up

Discuss the questions in pairs.

1. How often do you eat pasta?
2. What is the most delicious pasta dish that you've ever eaten?
3. Do you think that the Italians are the best at cooking pasta?
4. How would you like to celebrate World Pasta Day? Choose 1-2 options:
 - have a contest with friends and family to see who can name the most kinds of pasta
 - host a pasta cooking competition
 - create your own pasta dish
 - go to your favorite Italian restaurant and try a pasta dish you've never had before



Task 1

Read interesting facts about pasta and try to guess the missing words.

- 1 Pasta was first eaten in _____.
- 2 It comes in ____ different shapes.
- 3 Italians eat more than ____ pounds of pasta a year.
- 4 Eating pasta makes you _____.
- 5 It tastes better than it _____.
- 6 The most popular brand of dried pasta in _____ is Barilla.
- 7 Lasagna is the _____ form of pasta.
- 8 The three most popular pasta dishes are _____, Macaroni and Cheese, Lasagna.



Task 2

Read the text and check your answers.

1 Pasta was first eaten in China.

The first recorded reports of people eating pasta came from China. Legend has it that famed explorer Marco Polo introduced the noodles to Italy in the 12th century.

2 It comes in 600 different shapes.

That's according to the International Pasta Organisation, and means we have many, many more varieties to try. Hooray!

3 Italians eat more than 60 pounds of pasta a year.....Per person.

4 Eating pasta makes you happy.

Carbohydrates in pasta increase the body's production of serotonin, the neurotransmitter that trigger feelings of happiness and well-being.



Task 2

5 It tastes better than it sounds.

In Italian, “spaghetti” means strings, “vermicelli” are small worms, “farfalle” are butterflies, “orecchiette” means small ears, “linguine” are little tongues and “ravioli” means small turnips.

6 The most popular brand of dried pasta in Italy is Barilla.

They also account for 25% of the pasta sales in the United States.

7 Lasagna is the oldest form of pasta.

Apparently there are writings of it as far back as the first century AD, when it was fried sheets, before being made into the dish it is today.

8 The three most popular pasta dishes are Spaghetti Bolognese, Macaroni and Cheese and Lasagna.

Task 3

Read the text again and choose 2 the most surprising facts. Discuss them with a partner.

Then don't look at the text. Check with a partner how many facts about pasta you remember.



Task 4

Watch the [video](#) about Best Pasta Recipes for National Pasta Day on ABC news (stop at 3.01)

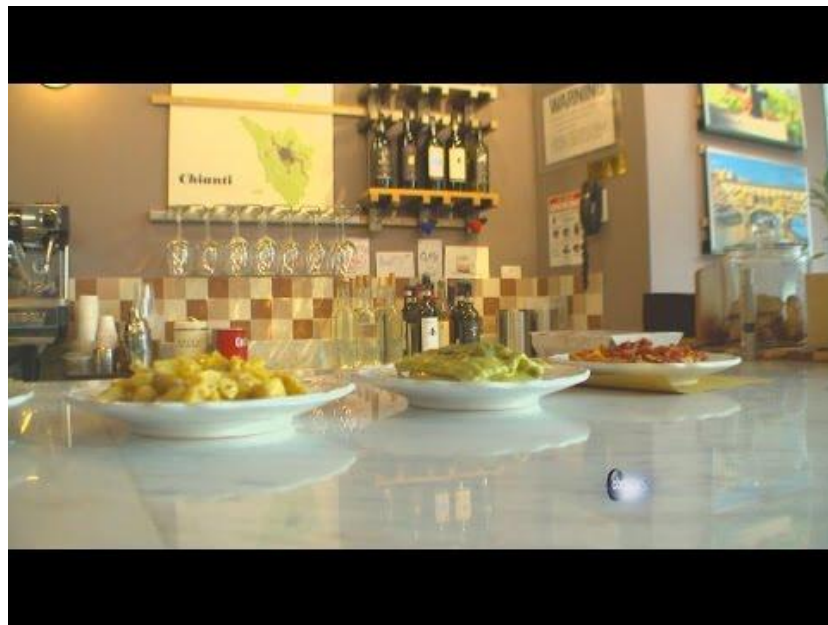
Would you like to try the dish in the video? Why(not)?



Task 5

Watch the [video](#) again (stop at 3.01) and mark the sentences True or False.

1. In Italy it's a tradition to have pasta as a starter.
2. The choice of sauce depends on a type of pasta.
3. There's a big difference between store-bought pasta and fresh pasta.
4. Andre uses white wine to neutralize the smell of other ingredients.



Task 6

Student A: Tell a partner about your favourite recipe for pasta. If you don't have one, talk about the recipe from the video. See the list of useful cooking verbs on the next slide.

Student B: Listen and take notes of the recipe. Let student A check if you have written it correctly.

Change roles.



Task 6



Key:

Task 1-2

1. Pasta was first eaten in China.
2. It comes in 600 different shapes.
3. Italians eat more than 60 pounds of pasta a year.
4. Eating pasta makes you happy.
5. It tastes better than it sounds.
6. The most popular brand of dried pasta in Italy is Barilla.
7. Lasagna is the oldest form of pasta.
8. The three most popular pasta dishes are Spaghetti Bolognese, Macaroni and Cheese and Lasagna.

Task 5

1. F (it's a tradition that every meal starts with a pasta dish, appetizer and then a pasta dish)
2. T (There is the best suited pasta for every type of hot sauce).
3. T (It's like talking about Ferrari against Chrysler. Two different worlds.)
4. F (Andre uses white wine to add more power to the sauce)