

What is Marmite?

Marmalade. Black pudding. Sausage rolls. Pork pies. Earl Grey tea. All these are typical British food products, but there is a particular one which men and women across the UK are divided over: Marmite. Denmark, though, appears to hate it because it was recently all over the news that it has been banned over there.



What is Marmite?

You can buy it in any supermarket and in many different jar sizes. It is a sticky, dark brown paste with a powerful flavor, which is extremely salty and savory. The distinctive taste comes from the yeast extract it is made from and it is usually eaten with bread and butter, or just toast. As the flavor is so extreme, it is either all or nothing for a lot of people.

Why does Denmark hate it?

Denmark appeared to have banned it, but it was misreported. In fact, it can only just be sold if the shop has a license to sell it, approved by the government. This is because Denmark is very strict on additives added into food and thinks that Marmite has too much vitamin B in it, which can be dangerous. Whether this was right or wrong, at least it had nothing to do with the taste.

Why do people love it?

Instead of going backwards and forwards about the health advantages and disadvantages of Marmite, I shall give you reasons why our school teachers love it: Dan: "It is yeasty and meaty. Not many things have that taste." Amy: "Especially on a Saturday morning, I eat it on toast with an omelet, with a knife and fork. I also like salty foods in my mouth" Roger: It thrills my taste buds. I like it on white bread, with lots of butter and lots of it. I must also have it with a cup of tea with milk and sugar, or just a plain glass of milk. Very refreshing." Neil: "It's one of the saltiest substances on earth, and I have

a salty tooth. Marmite on toast with a lot of butter.” As well as our teachers, some boys and girls even add salt and pepper to it, or prefer eating it with a glass of coke with ice and lemon!

Try it yourself

So, as you can see, there’s a lot of love for Marmite here at the school. Sooner or later, I hope you all get to try it. It doesn’t really matter if it’s more or less than what you expect - it’s just very different. You can eat it at any time of the day, morning or night, in hot or cold weather, or even in the peace and quiet of your own home. I know the Word café next to the school even sells it, so give it a try. Would you love it or hate it? Some pairs of words in English which go together always come in a certain order. For example, we always sat ‘Love or Hate’ and ‘Ladies and Gentlemen’ NOT ‘Hate or love’ and ‘Gentlemen or Ladies’.

Ex1. Read and find the word pairs.

Ex2. Pair column 1 with column 2 using related conjunctions.

Column1	Column2
Paper	Knife
Bread	Jelly
Peanut butter	Butter
Fork	Salt
Quiet	lightning
Bed	Breakfast
Forward	Backward
Thunder	peace

Answer keys:

Ex1.

Men and women-Bread and butter-All or nothing-Right or wrong -Backwards and forwards-Advantages and disadvantages-Knife and fork-Milk and sugar-Boys and girls-Salt and pepper-Ice and lemon-Sooner or later-More or less-Morning or night-Hot or cold-Peace and quiet

Ex2.

Salt and pepper

Peanut butter and jelly

Bread and butter

Thunder and lightning

Knife and fork

Bed and breakfast

Peace and quiet

Backward and forward