



COFFEE

"Even bad coffee is better than no coffee at all."

David Lynch, American film director

1. Coffee Discussion

1. Do you like coffee? What's your favourite type of coffee?
2. How much coffee do you drink per day? Do you think this is a lot?
3. When do you usually drink coffee?
4. How do you take your coffee? With milk? With sugar? Or just black?
5. What food do you like to eat while drinking coffee?
6. What is the most popular chain of coffee shop in your country?
7. What is your favourite chain of coffee shop?
8. What's your opinion of Starbucks and other big name coffee brands?

2. Coffee Vocabulary

- **filter coffee** (noun) – *coffee made by passing hot water over freshly ground coffee contained in a filter.*
- **Irish coffee** (noun) – *a coffee drink with added whisky.*
- **caffeine** (noun) – *an alkaloid substance known for its stimulant effects.*
- **café** (noun) – *a small informal restaurant selling light snacks and drinks including coffee.*
- **roast** (noun) – *the extent to which coffee beans have been roasted to produce different flavours. From less intense to most intense the roasts are: light, medium, and dark.*
- **fair trade** (noun, adjective) – *trade between developed and developing countries in which a fair price has been paid to producers.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun)

1. If you want to cut down on your _____ levels, you should buy decaf coffee.
2. If I don't have any _____, I'll drink instant coffee, even though I don't really like it.
3. You can use the Wi-Fi in the local _____ if you need to do some work.
4. Janet is very socially conscious; she always buys _____ coffee.
5. My grandad said drinking an _____ coffee before bed helped him to sleep!
6. I love the taste of a dark _____; it reminds me of when I visited Italy.

Coffee vocabulary comprehension questions

1. Do you prefer filter coffee or instant coffee? What's the difference?
2. Have you ever tried an Irish coffee? Where was this?
3. Apart from coffee, what else contains caffeine?
4. What roast of coffee do you prefer?
5. Do you ever go to a cafe to work or read a book? Why do people like to do this?
6. Do you think everyone should buy fair trade coffee? Why or why not?

3. Video: The Effects of Caffeine

You are going to watch a TED Ed video called "How Does Caffeine Keep Us Awake?"

Watch the video here: <https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-coffee/>

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. How many Eiffel Tower's worth of caffeine is drunk every year?
a) 13 b) 14 c) 15
2. In which of the following is caffeine consumed the most?
a) tea b) soda c) chocolate
3. What is a negative effect of caffeine consumption?
a) feeling alert b) happiness c) raised blood pressure

Sentence completion

1. Caffeine in small doses can help insects remember the location of _____.
2. In humans, caffeine stimulates the _____.
3. Caffeine and adenosine have a similar molecular _____.

Short answer

1. Caffeine can help the body burn what?
2. According to some sports organisations, what can caffeine give competitors?
3. Between which years did athletes have to stay below a certain blood-caffeine level?

True or false

1. Caffeine can make you go to the toilet more often.
2. The brain cannot adapt to caffeine consumption over a long period.
3. Caffeine withdrawal symptoms will disappear within a week.

4. Coffee Conversation Questions

1. Does coffee help you wake up in the morning? If so, why do you think that is?
2. Could you survive without coffee? Why or why not?
3. Have you ever drunk too much coffee? If so, what happened?
4. Do you think some people are addicted to coffee? Are you?
5. Do you think coffee is bad for your health in any way?
6. Which countries are famous for producing coffee?
7. Which country produces the best coffee?
8. Do you think coffee farmers get paid enough? If not, how could this problem be solved?

5. Coffee Writing Task

Write about how coffee is produced. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, include the following topics:

- The origins of coffee.
- How it is prepared for drinking.
- The different ways it can be drunk.

Alternative exam practice question:

To protect the livelihoods and living standards for coffee producers in developing countries, people should only buy fair-trade coffee. Do you agree or disagree with this?