

Tea

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Which beverage is more popular in your country of origin, tea or coffee?
2. What words or ideas do you associate with tea?
3. Which country do you think produces the most tea?
4. How many types of tea can you name?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Scan the article on the next page and find the correct word in **bold**.

1. a synonym of "legends" _____ *myths* _____
2. a word that describes something that has undergone a chemical process _____
3. an antonym of "expensive" _____
4. a word that describes the way a drink has been prepared _____
5. a word that describes people who study a lot _____
6. an antonym of "low quality" and "cheap" _____
7. an antonym of "hated" _____
8. a word that means to have thrown something away in a careless way _____
9. a word related to very large companies _____
10. an antonym of "relaxed" _____
11. a word related to religion, occupation, and travel _____

Reading

1. Tea is a beverage made by combining boiled water and leaves from the *Camellia sinensis* plant. There are two main varieties of this plant: one with large leaves and one with small leaves. Some types of tea, such as black tea, are **fermented**. Other types, including white tea, are unfermented.
2. There are many **myths** about the origin of the drink, dating as early as 2700 BC in China. In one of these myths, a leaf fell into boiling water. A Chinese emperor drank the water and liked the taste. For many years after tea's discovery, it was **brewed** mainly for medicinal purposes.
3. Around AD 800, Buddhist **scholars** from Japan visited China and took tea back home with them. Soon after, the Japanese also began growing tea. Later, in the 16th century, Portuguese **missionaries** brought tea to Europe, where the Dutch began to sell it as an expensive **luxury** item.
4. The Portuguese princess Catherine of Braganza introduced the British to tea in 1622, when she married King Charles II. At first, Britain depended on China for its tea supply, but the relationship between the two countries became **strained** over time. In 1824, a Scottish explorer discovered tea leaves growing in the Indian state of Assam, and the British began to rely on India and neighboring Ceylon for their favorite drink.
5. Tea has even played a role in major historical events. In 1773, the British government passed the Tea Act. This act gave the British East India Company a **monopoly** on tea sales in the American colonies. Already angry about the high tax on tea, hundreds of colonists climbed onto three ships and **dumped** more than 92,000 pounds (41,730 kilograms) of tea into Boston Harbor. The Boston Tea Party, as it became known, was one of the events that led to the American Revolution.
6. Today, tea is the world's second most popular drink, after water. Not only is it **affordable**, but it also comes in many varieties. Tea bags, which were invented in the early 1900s in the United States, have made the beverage convenient and easy to make. It's no surprise that afternoon tea has become one of the United Kingdom's most **beloved** traditions.

"You can't buy happiness, but you can buy tea, and that's kind of the same thing."

—Anonymous

Comprehension

A. True or False?

Read the statements below.

If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence.

If it is false, write F and correct the information.

- _____ 1. White tea is fermented.
- _____ 2. Paragraph two is about the earliest history of tea.
- _____ 3. Dutch missionaries brought tea to Europe.
- _____ 4. Tea was discovered growing in India in 1824.
- _____ 5. The first sentence in paragraph six is a fact, not an opinion.

B. Ask & Answer

Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner.

Then write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

- 1. How is tea made?
- 2. Who introduced the British to tea?
- 3. Why did England begin relying on India and Ceylon for its tea supply?
- 4. What was the Tea Act?
- 5. Why did American colonists dump tea into Boston Harbor?
- 6. When and where were tea bags invented?
- 7. What is the purpose of paragraph six?

Vocabulary Review

A. Fill in the Blanks

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.
You may need to change the word forms.

1. Baxter is always talking about his _____ wife, who is popular with both children and adults.
2. This university has produced some of the world's top _____ .
3. A group of European _____ set up a church near Beijing.
4. I need to take a shower! Sheila _____ a bowl of cereal on my head during an argument.
5. Excuse me. What's the most _____ kind of tea you sell? I don't have much money.
6. Aunt Tabitha spends a lot of money on _____ items, like perfume imported from France.
7. I thought the Boston Tea Party was a _____ , but my teacher told me it really happened.

B. Match-Up

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.
Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | | |
|-------|----------------|--|
| _____ | 1. fermented | a) inexpensive |
| _____ | 2. myth | b) a person who studies a lot and becomes an expert on a subject |
| _____ | 3. brew | c) of high quality and expensive |
| _____ | 4. scholar | d) when one person or company has exclusive control over a product |
| _____ | 5. missionary | e) much loved |
| _____ | 6. luxury | f) having gone through the process of breaking down chemicals with bacteria or yeast |
| _____ | 7. strained | g) a very old story that is not based on facts |
| _____ | 8. monopoly | h) to throw something away in a hurried manner |
| _____ | 9. dump | i) showing signs of tension |
| _____ | 10. affordable | j) a person who travels, often to a foreign country, to do religious work |
| _____ | 11. beloved | k) to prepare a drink using hot water |

Grammar Practice

A. Prefer Vs. Rather

The words *prefer* and *rather* have similar functions. These words help you describe what you like better out of two or more options. Let's review how to use both words correctly.

| | Prefer | Rather |
|----------------|---|--|
| Meaning | Prefer is a verb that means "to like better." | Rather is an adverb that is commonly used to express a preference. |
| Uses | <p><i>Prefer</i> can be used with a gerund or infinitive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I prefer to drink black tea over herbal tea. • I prefer having tea with my mother to having tea with my best friend. • I prefer drinking hot tea over iced tea. | <p><i>Rather</i> is preceded by the modal <i>would</i> and followed by a verb.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would rather drink green tea than chamomile. • I would rather have tea with the queen than have tea with a stranger. • Would you rather drink tea or coffee in the morning? |
| | <p><i>Prefer</i> can also be used before a noun.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I prefer brown sugar to white sugar in my tea. • I prefer tea bags to loose tea. • I prefer coffee. | |
| | <p><i>Prefer</i> can also be used in a question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which do you prefer? • What would you prefer? • Why do you prefer almond milk to regular milk? | |

Common Errors

Here are some common errors with *prefer* and *rather*. Be careful that you don't use *rather* as a verb.

- I would rather ~~to~~ drink tea.
- I would rather ~~talking~~ on the phone than ~~texting~~.
- I ~~rather~~ black tea. (*prefer*)

Grammar Practice cont.

B. Practice

Fill in the blanks with *rather* or *prefer*.

1. Would you _____ have afternoon tea at 3:00 or 3:30?
2. They _____ drinking tea to going shopping.
3. Which do you _____, tea with sugar, tea with milk, or tea with both?
4. You _____ tea over coffee, don't you?
5. I'd _____ walk to the cafe than drive.

Discussion

1. In many parts of the world, tea is still used as medicine. What symptoms or illnesses is it used to treat?
2. What is your favorite drink? Do you know how it's made and where it originally came from?
3. What are some products that are affordable today but that used to be luxury items?
4. How would the world be different if tea had never been discovered?