

## EJERCICIO 1

### DRINKING TEA IN THE UK

You will listen to Alice and Yvonne talking about tea drinking in the UK.

*Listening material from BBC Learning English.*

1. They say that a Victorian ..... has been included in a list of 100 objects that tell the history of the world.
  - A. teapot
  - B. tea cup
  - C. tea mug
  - D. tea service
  
2. "A History of the World in 100 Objects" is a BBC ...
  - A. TV series
  - B. radio chat
  - C. documentary
  - D. radio programme
  
3. This Victorian object was made ...
  - A. in 1845
  - B. in the 18<sup>th</sup> century
  - C. about 170 years ago
  - D. between 1940 and 1945
  
4. Neil MacGregor thinks that the belief that tea is British is ...
  - A. ironic
  - B. domestic
  - C. interesting
  - D. unremarkable
  
5. Tea plants come, among other places, from ...
  - A. Sri Lanka, India and Africa
  - B. India, Sri Lanka and Thailand
  - C. China, India and the Caribbean
  - D. The Caribbean, China and Africa
  
6. Industrialisation required that workers became ...
  - A. alcoholic
  - B. tea-aholic
  - C. a bit drunk
  - D. more productive

**7. People drank alcohol because ...**

- A. it was cheap
- B. they were poor
- C. it was safer than water
- D. they wanted to get drunk

**8. Propaganda was used to ...**

- A. achieve sobriety
- B. spread religious ideas
- C. change the ruling classes
- D. make tea the national drink

**9. Nowadays British people drink ...**

- A. alternative teas
- B. coffee as well as tea
- C. coffee instead of tea
- D. cappuccinos instead of tea

**10. Choose the correct sentence.**

- A. 120,000 cups of tea are drunk every day in the UK
- B. 120,000,000 cups of tea are drunk every day in the UK
- C. 120,000,000 cups of tea are drunk every day in the world
- D. 120,000,000 cups of tea have been drunk since Victorian times

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**Alice:** Now, we're not just talking about tea because it's my favourite drink. It's because a Victorian tea set has been included in a list of 100 objects that tell the history of the world.

**Yvonne:** Oh yes. This is the BBC radio series called "A History of the World in 100 Objects". So what has a Victorian tea set got to do with that, Alice?

**Alice:** Well, it was made between 1840 and 1845 at a time when really, tea became Britain's favourite national drink.

**Yvonne:** So the popularity of tea began about 170 years ago then?

**Alice:** Yes and through this tea set, we begin to understand why tea became so popular. Let's hear from Neil MacGregor, the Director of the British Museum about why having a cup of tea is so British.

**Insert 1 (Neil MacGregor, British Museum):** What could be more domestic, more unremarkable, more British than a nice cup of tea? You could ask that question the other way 'round: what could be less British than a cup of tea, given that tea is made from plants grown in India, China or Africa and is usually sweetened by sugar from the Caribbean?

**Yvonne:** It's interesting that Neil MacGregor says what could be less British than a cup of tea, when we think of tea as a very British institution really.

**Alice:** It is, but of course, he's talking about where the tea plants come from; places like India, Sri Lanka and China, where they developed tea plantations, and the sugar, of course, came from the Caribbean.

**Yvonne:** That's because Britain was an empire during Victorian times so it helped itself to anything its countries produced, like tea and sugar.

**Alice:** Now in the 1800s, Britain was becoming an industrialised nation and workers were required to be as productive as possible. But unfortunately, many of them were a little bit drunk.

**Yvonne:** So instead of being addicted to tea like you, Alice – a tea-aholic, I'd say some were addicted to alcohol; they were alcoholics.

**Alice:** And it's no real surprise! Water wasn't safe to drink so alcohol was a good antiseptic and often poor people, including some children, would drink beer, port or gin.

**Yvonne:** Oh dear! That's not good, but that's why the ruling classes wanted sobriety, so things had to change.

**Alice:** Here's historian, Selina Fox who can tell us more:

**Insert 2 (Selina Fox)** The desire to have a working population that was sober and industrious was very, very strong and there was a great deal of propaganda to that effect. And it was tied in with dissent, Methodism and so on, sobriety – and tea really was the drink of choice.

**Alice:** So Selina Fox says there was a desire for an industrious working population; people who worked hard and didn't get drunk. Propaganda was used to help change the workers along with the help from the Methodists – Christian, religious people. Well it must have worked because as a result, tea became Britain's favourite national drink in the Victorian period.

**Yvonne:** Now I wonder how many cups have been drunk since those times, Alice?

**Alice:** I don't know but soon, I will reveal how many cups are currently drunk every day in the UK. Of course, these days, coffee is an alternative to tea and has become big business recently.

**Yvonne:** Particularly the sales of cappuccinos and lattes.

**Alice:** So now it's time to give you the answer to my question. I asked you, according to the British Tea Council, how many cups of tea are drunk every day in Britain.

**Yvonne:** And I said 120,000 cups of tea.

**Alice:** Well, actually you're wrong. In fact, it's 120,000,000 cups of tea every day!

**Yvonne:** Wow, that's a staggering number.

**Alice:** That's a lot of tea. Now you can see why Britain is a nation of tea drinkers!

Listening material from: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/general/sixminute/2010/12/101209\\_6min\\_tea\\_page.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/general/sixminute/2010/12/101209_6min_tea_page.shtml)

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1. A  
B  
C  
 D
2. A  
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C  
 D
3. A  
B  
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4. A  
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7. A  
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D
8.  A  
B  
C  
D
9. A  
 B  
C  
D
10. A  
 B  
C  
D