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UK supermarkets to remove sell-by dates

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:

http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1109/110915-sell_by_date.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

15th September, 2011

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1109/110915-sell_by_date.html

Supermarkets in the U.K. want to remove the sell-by dates from the food they sell. They say this will help cut down the amount of wasted food. Stores throw away a lot of food that is actually OK to eat. Food stores also say taking off sell-by dates will save shoppers money because prices will come down. They believe the government is being too careful about the food we buy. Supermarket managers say "use-by" or "best-before" dates are better. The BBC reports that the UK throws away almost \$20 billion of edible food every year.

The government says British families throw away five million tons of edible food each year. That's the same as \$1,000 of food per family. Caroline Spelman, a government spokeswoman, said food labels in Britain were too confusing. She told reporters: "We want to end the food labelling confusion." She added that she wanted to "make it clear once and for all when food is good and safe to eat". A food expert said many shoppers are afraid to eat food that is older than the sell-by date. He said this is wrong because the food is still fresh and good enough to eat.

PHRASE MATCH

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1109/110915-sell_by_date.html

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. cut down the amount of | a. money |
| 2. OK | b. too careful |
| 3. save shoppers | c. dates are better |
| 4. the government is being | d. wasted food |
| 5. "use-by" or "best-before" | e. food every year |
| 6. almost \$20 billion of edible | f. to eat |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. British families throw away | a. labelling confusion |
| 2. \$1,000 of food per | b. the sell-by date |
| 3. We want to end the food | c. five million tons |
| 4. make it clear once | d. enough to eat |
| 5. food that is older than | e. family |
| 6. the food is still fresh and good | f. and for all |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1109/110915-sell_by_date.html

Supermarkets in the U.K. want to remove the sell-by dates from _____ . They say this will help cut down the amount of wasted food. Stores _____ of food that is actually OK to eat. Food stores also say taking off sell-by dates will _____ because prices will come down. They believe the government is _____ about the food we buy. Supermarket managers say "use-by" or "best-before" _____ . The BBC reports that the UK throws away almost \$20 billion _____ every year.

The government says British families throw _____ tons of edible food each year. _____ \$1,000 of food per family. Caroline Spelman, a government spokeswoman, said food labels in Britain _____. She told reporters: "We want to end the food labelling confusion." She added that she wanted to " _____ once and for all when food is good _____". A food expert said many shoppers are afraid to eat food that is older than the sell-by date. He said this is wrong because the food is still fresh and _____ eat.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1109/110915-sell_by_date.html

Supermarkets in the U.K. (1) _____ to remove the sell-by dates from the food they sell. They say this will help cut down the amount of (2) _____ food. Stores throw away a lot of food that is (3) _____ OK to eat. Food stores also say taking off sell-by dates will save shoppers money because prices will (4) _____ down. They believe the government is being too careful about the food we buy. Supermarket managers say "use-by" or "best-(5) _____" dates are better. The BBC reports that the UK throws away almost \$20 billion of (6) _____ food every year.

The government says British families throw (7) _____ five million tons of edible food each year. That's the same as \$1,000 of food (8) _____ family. Caroline Spelman, a government spokeswoman, said food labels in Britain were (9) _____ confusing. She told reporters: "We want to end the food labelling confusion." She added that she wanted to "make it clear (10) _____ and for all when food is good and safe to eat". A food expert said many shoppers are (11) _____ to eat food that is older than the sell-by date. He said this is wrong (12) _____ the food is still fresh and good enough to eat.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. | (a) want | (b) would | (c) will |
| 2. | (a) washed | (b) wished | (c) wasted |
| 3. | (a) actual | (b) actually | (c) actions |
| 4. | (a) arrive | (b) come | (c) be |
| 5. | (a) before | (b) after | (c) while |
| 6. | (a) trouble | (b) wobble | (c) edible |
| 7. | (a) up | (b) away | (c) over |
| 8. | (a) per | (b) for | (c) far |
| 9. | (a) much | (b) too | (c) over |
| 10. | (a) twice | (b) upon | (c) once |
| 11. | (a) afraid | (b) fear | (c) scary |
| 12. | (a) so | (b) but | (c) because |

SPELLING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1109/110915-sell_by_date.html

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. the naoutm of wasted food
2. wrtho away a lot of food
3. save pphroess money
4. perisc will come down
5. being too rlufcae
6. deeibl food

Paragraph 2

7. five inlomli tons
8. \$1,000 of food per faiym
9. too guosncifn
10. make it arelc once and for all
11. rfadia to eat food that is older
12. the food is still fshre

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1109/110915-sell_by_date.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- (**1**) Supermarkets in the U.K. want to remove the sell-by dates from the food they sell. They say this will
- () help cut down the amount of wasted food. Stores throw away a lot of food that is actually
- () OK to eat. Food stores also say taking off sell-by dates will save shoppers
- () money because prices will come down. They believe the government is being too careful
- () about the food we buy. Supermarket managers say "use-by" or "best-before"
- () dates are better. The BBC reports that the UK throws away almost \$20 billion of edible food every year.
- () The government says British families throw away five million tons of edible food each
- () year. That's the same as \$1,000 of food per family. Caroline Spelman, a government spokeswoman, said food
- () labels in Britain were too confusing. She told reporters: "We want to end the food labelling
- () confusion." She added that she wanted to "make it clear once and for all when food is good and safe
- () to eat". A food expert said many shoppers are afraid to eat food that is older
- () than the sell-by date. He said this is wrong because the food is still fresh and good enough to eat.

WORD JUMBLE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1109/110915-sell_by_date.html

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. dates food the the Remove from sell-by.

2. is actually OK to eat A lot of food that.

3. Taking off sell-by dates will save shoppers money.

4. is They being believe too the careful government.

5. Almost billion food 20 edible year \$ of every.

6. away edible five food million tons Throw of.

7. The family per food of 1,000 1 \$ as same.

8. to confusion end the We food want labelling.

9. for and once clear it Make all.

10. to eat The food is still fresh and good enough.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. FOOD: Search the Internet and find more information about food. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about food and sell-by dates. Include imaginary interviews with shoppers. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to a food expert. Ask him/her three questions about food and sell-by dates. Give him/her three of your opinions on this . Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.