

- **Goal:** understand a magazine article
- **Focus:** using a monolingual dictionary

**1 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.**

- 1 What snack foods are popular in your country?
- 2 What do you usually eat for lunch; when you fancy a snack?
- 3 Do you ever eat sandwiches? If so, what are your favourite fillings?

**2 Read the article quickly. How many sandwich revolutions have there been?**

## The most successful *snack* in the **world?**

*250 years ago, a **momentous** event occurred. John Montagu was playing cards and he didn't want to stop for a meal. So instead he asked for a piece of beef between two pieces of bread. According to the story, this had never been done before and it was the start of a revolution. John Montagu's official title was the Earl of Sandwich and the snack he invented was called ... you guessed it, the sandwich!*

Sandwiches are now an £8 billion a year industry in the UK and more than 300,000 people work in the sandwich production business – that's more people than work in agriculture. So how did sandwiches become quite so **ubiquitous**?

Back in the 18th century, the main meal of the day in the UK was a sit-down dinner at 4 p.m. Montagu's invention was daring because you no longer needed to stop what you were doing in order to eat. This is part of the attraction of the sandwich in our busy modern lives. It's possible to eat one on the go, in a meeting, at your desk or even in bed. It's the **ultimate** convenience food.

Until quite recently, sandwiches were considered **tedious** and joyless. They were things that people made at home using cheese and whatever leftovers were available in the fridge. All that changed in 1980 when the second sandwich revolution started.

Marks & Spencer, a famous British food and clothing store, began selling pre-prepared sandwiches in plastic boxes. They were an instant hit. Customers no longer needed to make a sandwich themselves or wait while someone in a café made one for them – they could just take one from the shelves, start eating and, four minutes later (the average time it takes to eat a sandwich) be finished. Like most of the best ideas, it was simple and **revolutionary**.

Shops and supermarkets everywhere started selling pre-prepared sandwiches and the British public started to experiment with new flavours. Crayfish and rocket, goats cheese with pink peppercorns and tomatoes – these are just some of the new filling combinations that became popular. In fact, the job of sandwich inventor was created and there is now an annual awards ceremony, organised by the British Sandwich Association, where the inventor of the best new sandwich wins a large sum of money.



While sandwich inventors are always looking for new filling combinations, sandwich scientists have been trying to solve the tricky problems of how to stop the filling falling to the front of the box, how to stop the bread going **soggy**, how to minimise the space between the bits of lettuce, and so on. And in case you were wondering who cuts all those remarkable sandwiches, the answer is no one. Cutting machines do the job with titanium blades that vibrate 20 thousand times a second.

But it's not just cutting machines that are taking over the work of humans in sandwich production. Machines often spread the butter, drop the ingredients onto the bread and package the sandwich in its box. It's quite likely, in fact, that your sandwich will not have been touched by anyone before you eat it. This automation of sandwich production is the third sandwich revolution.

For real enthusiasts, a small town in the south of English **hosts** a sandwich festival every year. Here you can take part in sandwich-making competitions, watch a parade or sample new sandwich fillings. And the name of this small town in the south of England? You guessed it: Sandwich!

**3 Read the article again and choose the correct option, a–c, to answer the questions.**

- 1 Why did John Montagu order the first sandwich?
  - a He wanted a break from playing cards.
  - b He wanted to eat without interrupting the card game.
  - c He didn't have any other food to eat.
- 2 How many people work in agriculture in the UK?
  - a more people than work in sandwich production
  - b the same number of people as work in sandwich production
  - c fewer people than work in sandwich production
- 3 Why is the sandwich so well suited to modern life?
  - a You can eat it at 4 p.m.
  - b It makes people stop their busy lives to eat it.
  - c You can eat it anywhere without stopping.
- 4 What changed in 1980?
  - a People started eating sandwiches more quickly.
  - b People started buying sandwiches which were already made.
  - c People started making sandwiches at home.
- 5 How did pre-prepared sandwiches change what people ate?
  - a They started to put new foods together in a sandwich.
  - b They started to pay more for better sandwiches.
  - c They stopped eating cheese in their sandwiches.
- 6 What does a sandwich scientist do?
  - a finds new ways to cut sandwiches
  - b makes stronger boxes for sandwiches
  - c solves problems with sandwiches
- 7 What is the third sandwich revolution?
  - a sandwiches made by machines
  - b sandwich fillings that are more popular
  - c sandwich fillings that are more interesting
- 8 Where does the sandwich festival take place?
  - a The article doesn't say.
  - b in a small town called Sandwich
  - c in a different town each year



- 4 a Look at the word *momentous* in the first sentence of the article. Can you guess what it means?
- b Read the Focus box, look at the dictionary extract and check your answer.

### Using a monolingual dictionary

A good monolingual dictionary can tell you a lot about a new word (or a word you already know). Apart from the meaning it can also tell you:

- 1 the part of speech (noun, adjective, verb, adverb)
- 2 other words in the word family
- 3 the syllables
- 4 the pronunciation in phonetic text (and in an audio clip)
- 5 common collocations
- 6 examples from a corpus (a collection of examples of language)

**2** Word family noun **moment** momentum adjective **momentary**  
**momentous** adverb **momentarily**

From Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

**3** **mo·men·tous** **4** /məʊˈmentəs, mə- \$ mou-, mə-/ **1** adjective

**4** a **momentous** event, change, or decision is very important because it will have a great influence on the future

**5** a **momentous** decision

**5** **Momentous** events are taking place in the US.

**5** His colleagues all recognized that this was a **momentous** occasion.

**5** one of the most **momentous** days in British sport

► see thesaurus at **important**

**Examples from the Corpus**

**momentous**

**6** \* At the time, our **department** was going through some **momentous** changes.

- 5 a Look at the other words in bold in the article on page 100. Try to guess their meaning then check in a monolingual dictionary.
- b For each word, note down the number of syllables and some common collocations. Work in pairs and compare your answers.
- 6 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.
  - 1 What in the text do you find surprising or worrying? Why?
  - 2 How do you think people's eating habits will be different 20 years from now?

