

# Probeschularbeit: English - Reading Comprehension

Datum: 14.02.2026

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Task: Gap-Fill Exercise

Read the text from 2017 about a trendy food. Some parts are missing. Choose the correct part from the list (A-J) for each gap (1-8). There is one extra part that you should not use. Write your answers in the boxes provided below. The first one (0) has been done for you.

### In Praise of Quinoa

PEOPLE are funny about food. (0) F. In 1755 Samuel Johnson's dictionary defined oats as "a grain, which in England is generally given to horses, but in Scotland supports the people". Nineteenth-century Japanese nationalists dismissed Western culture as *bata kusai*, or "stinking of butter". Unkind people today deride Brits as "limeys", Mexicans as "beaners" and French people as "frogs". (1) \_\_\_\_\_. George Orwell complained that socialism was unpopular because it attracted "every fruit-juice drinker, nudist, sandal-wearer [and] sex-maniac...in England". In many countries today, politicians who wish to imply that their rivals have lost touch with ordinary voters sneer that they are latte-drinkers, muesli-munchers or partial to quinoa.

(2) \_\_\_\_\_. To its fans, it is a superfood. To its detractors, it is like the erotic sci-fi murals found in Saddam Hussein's palaces - pretentious and tasteless. An advertisement for Big Macs once riffed on this prejudice. "Foodies and gastronomists kindly avert your eyes. (3) \_\_\_\_\_," it said, adding that "while [a Big Mac] is massive, its ego is not." Even those who love quinoa sometimes fret that scarfing it may not be ethical. What if rising hipster demand pushes the price up, forcing Andeans to eat less of their beloved grain? Or what if the price falls, making Andean farmers poorer? A headline from *Mother Jones*, a left-wing magazine, perfectly captured the confusion of well-meaning Western foodies: "Quinoa: good, evil or just really complicated?"

This newspaper takes no view as to whether quinoa tastes nice. (4) \_\_\_\_\_. More and more people are chomping unfamiliar grains. Rich Westerners are eating less wheat and more of the cereals that people in poor countries traditionally grow, such as millet, sorghum, teff and yes, quinoa. (5) \_\_\_\_\_. West Africans are eating 25% more rice per head than in 2006; millet consumption has fallen by the same share.

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All this is to be celebrated, for it is a symptom of rising prosperity and expanding choice. The spread of better farming techniques has raised yields, helping humanity feed itself despite a rising population. Rapid urbanisation means that fewer people grow their own grain, and more have the cash to try new varieties. Globalisation has allowed food and farming techniques to cross borders, meaning that people on every continent can experience new flavours and textures. (6) \_\_\_\_: Chinese visitors to France return home craving baguettes; Americans who live near Ethiopian immigrants learn to love injera (a soft teff flatbread that doubles as an edible plate).

The globalisation and modernisation of agriculture have contributed to a stunning reduction in hunger. (7) \_\_\_\_\_. People who are still underfed are less severely so: their average shortfall in calories fell from 170 a day to 88 by 2016. And between 1990 and 2012 the proportion of their income that poor people worldwide had to spend on food fell from 79% to 54%. (8) \_\_\_\_\_. A study by Marc Bellemare of the University of Minnesota found that Peruvian households became better off because of the quinoa boom, even if they didn't grow the stuff, because newly prosperous quinoa farmers bought more goods and services from their neighbours.

## Options A-J

- A. Middle-class Asians are eating more wheat, in the form of noodles or bread, instead of rice
- B. Migration and tourism have broadened people's culinary horizons
- C. This South American grain gets a particularly bad rap
- D. Between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of children under five who were malnourished fell from 25% to 14%
- E. As for those quinoa farmers, don't worry
- F. Throughout history they have mocked others for eating strange things
- G. Rising prosperity has allowed an increasing number of people to become unhealthily fat
- H. But its spread is a symptom of a happy trend
- I. And food-related insults often have a political tinge
- J. You can't get juiciness like this from soy or quinoa

## Your Answers

0: F | 1: \_\_\_\_ | 2: \_\_\_\_ | 3: \_\_\_\_ | 4: \_\_\_\_

5: \_\_\_\_ | 6: \_\_\_\_ | 7: \_\_\_\_ | 8: \_\_\_\_