

New super-sweet tomato hits the shelves!

A revolutionary new tomato, tasting as sweet as a peach, recently hit the shelves in the UK. The new Sugardrop tomato is the sweetest tomato ever created and is a natural hybrid of two different varieties of the fruit. It has been developed to encourage children to eat more healthily and for those people who have a sweet tooth. Because of its unusual taste it is expected to appeal to those people who find the normal versions too sharp. The breed is the result of two years of trials involving 3,000 different tomato varieties. It was developed for supermarket giant Tesco. The new tomato has been grown on the Costa Calida, in Murcia, southwest Spain and by the chain's grower, Paloma. Because of the highly competitive nature of the food world, the creators are not even revealing which two varieties were crossed to create the fruit. They fear that because of the potential of the Sugardrop other rival growers will try and copy it to muscle in on the £520m UK market.

Tesco supermarket buyer Ashley McWilliams: "The gourmet bite had been planned from as early as 2007. A few years ago we met up with our suppliers and asked them to find us a high quality tomato which would appeal to gourmets with a sweet tooth." She added, "It was the start of major research that involved our growers contacting all the major seed houses in the world. They wanted to find varieties that they could cross pollinate to find a tomato with higher than normal sugar levels. The result is Sugardrop, which is the sweetest tomato there ever has been and now this week UK shoppers will be the first to try it." The tomato is a herbaceous plant native to South America, which can grow up to 10ft in height. They were not grown in England until the 1590s and by the mid-1700s were widely eaten throughout the country. It is now used as a staple ingredient in thousands of popular dishes including pizza, lasagne and spaghetti bolognese. Sugardrop tomatoes are being sold as part of Tesco's Finest Food Range and will cost £1.50 for a 280g punnet.

Category: Lifestyle / Fruits / Tomato
Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

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EXERCISES

1. Tomatoes: Are tomatoes a fruit or a vegetable? What kind of tomatoes do you eat? Think of three other things about tomatoes. Go round the room swapping details.

2. Dictation: The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

3. Reading: The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

4. Vocabulary: Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

5. The article: Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?
- c) Would you like to try the new variety of tomato?

6. Let's think! Think of five different fruits you eat. Add five different unusual or seasonal fruits. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these. Which do you like to buy? Which do you like to eat and drink?

Five fruits you eat	Five unusual or seasonal fruits
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

7. Let's talk! At a market: *In pairs/groups/as a class.* Imagine you are at a fruit and vegetable market. One of you is buying some **fruit** and **vegetables**, the other is the market trader selling them. The buyer should barter. Maybe haggle over the price. The seller should give some traditional market sales talk. Swap roles! The buyer should then move round to another market stall. Find yourself something new. Try to add some fun into the situation. *5-10 minutes.*

8. Let's think! Fruit: Swap partners. With your new partner on the board write as many words to do with **fruit** as you can. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

New super sweet tomato hits the shelves – 5th January 2010

9. Let's do 'The Article Quiz': Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) Name the new variety of tomato.
- 2) How much is a punnet of 280g of the new tomato?
- 3) Is a tomato a fruit or a vegetable?
- 4) Sum up how the new variety was created.
- 5) Where does the tomato originate from?

Student B

- 1) The tomato is the staple ingredient in what?
- 2) Name the supermarket.
- 3) How much is the UK tomato market worth?
- 4) Describe the new tomato.
- 5) In what country was the new tomato created in?

10. Let's talk! **Fruit:** In pairs. Imagine you are in a fruit and vegetable shop. You get chatting to a stranger about fruit! Which fruits are your favourite? Why? What fruit did you buy last week? Which you would like to buy next week? Try to make it light hearted. *5-minutes.*

11. Let's debate: In pairs. Students A think an apple a day keeps the doctor away i.e. you like to eat fruit once a day. Students B think otherwise. Explain why.

12. **Presentation:** In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a two minute presentation on **Fruit**. Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation to the class. The class can vote on the best presentation. Class – After the presentations go through the strong and weak points on each presentation. Learn from the results.

13. Let's chat! In pairs: One of you is speaking on your mobile **or** computer to your friend on Skype in another country. You are telling them all about the different markets near you. The other then chats about the ones near him/her. How do they compare?

14. Let's write an e-mail: Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about **tomatoes**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

15. **Quickfire!** In a group in a circle. The teacher asks the class, "**I love tomatoes with...**"

16. **Sentence starters:** Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) The new tomato _____
- b) Sugardrop _____
- c) A punnet _____

New super sweet tomato hits the shelves – 5th January 2010

DISCUSSION

Student's A's questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What do you think UK shoppers will think of the new variety of tomato?
- 3) What advice would you give to tomato growers?
- 4) Where do you grow tomatoes?
- 5) Where, including the country, are most commercial tomatoes grown?
- 6) Why do we eat tomatoes?
- 7) Do you think the new variety of tomato will be introduced to other countries soon?
- 8) Have you ever been to the Costa Calida in Spain?
- 9) What fruits and vegetables did you buy this week?
- 10) What fruits and vegetables did you eat yesterday and today?

Student's B's questions

- 1) What do you think about what you read?
- 2) What kind of tomatoes do you eat?
- 3) What do you eat tomatoes with?
- 4) How important are tomatoes in your diet?
- 5) What do you think of the new variety of tomato?
- 6) Will you be rushing out to buy the new variety of tomato?
- 7) Are Tesco onto a winner here? i.e. will the new tomato be highly successful for them?
- 8) Do you prefer tomatoes cooked or raw?
- 9) Have you ever grown tomatoes?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's play a game! Fruit and vegetable market

Allow 10 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

Form a circle or go round the room in a clockwise direction.

"I went to a fruit and vegetable market and I bought ..."

The idea of the game is that each person has to remember what was previously said then add one more fruit or vegetable. The list will therefore get longer and longer.

When a student cannot remember the order or cannot think of a fruit or vegetable they are 'eliminated'!

The winner is the one at the end not eliminated!

The teacher can moderate the session.

GAP FILL: READING

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

New super-sweet tomato hits the shelves!

A revolutionary new tomato, tasting as sweet as a _____, recently hit the _____ in the UK. The new Sugardrop _____ is the sweetest tomato ever created and is a natural hybrid of two different varieties of the fruit. It has been developed to encourage children to eat more healthily and for those people who have a sweet tooth. Because of its unusual _____ it is expected to appeal to those people who find the normal versions too _____. The breed is the result of two years of trials involving 3,000 different tomato varieties. It was developed for supermarket giant Tesco. The new tomato has been grown on the Costa Calida, in Murcia, southwest Spain and by the chain's grower, Paloma. Because of the highly competitive nature of the food world, the creators are not even revealing which two varieties were crossed to create the fruit. They fear that because of the _____ of the Sugardrop other _____ growers will try and copy it to muscle in on the £520m UK _____.

Tesco supermarket buyer Ashley McWilliams: "The _____ bite had been planned from as early as 2007. A few years ago we met up with our suppliers and asked them to find us a high quality tomato which would appeal to gourmets with a sweet tooth." She added, "It was the start of major research that involved our growers contacting all the major _____ houses in the world. They wanted to find _____ that they could cross _____ to find a tomato with higher than normal sugar levels. The result is Sugardrop, which is the sweetest tomato there ever has been and now this week UK shoppers will be the first to try it." The tomato is a herbaceous plant _____ to South America, which can grow up to 10ft in _____. They were not grown in England until the 1590s and by the mid-1700s were widely eaten throughout the country. It is now used as a _____ ingredient in thousands of popular dishes including pizza, lasagne and spaghetti bolognaise. Sugardrop tomatoes are being sold as part of Tesco's Finest Food Range and will cost £1.50 for a 280g _____.

peach

sharp

rival

shelves

tomato

potential

market

taste

varieties

staple

native

pollinate

height

seed

gourmet

punnet

PUT THE ARTICLE BACK TOGETHER

- () widely eaten throughout the country. It is now used as a staple ingredient in thousands of popular dishes including pizza, lasagne and spaghetti bolognese. Sugardrop tomatoes are being sold as part of Tesco's Finest
- (1) A revolutionary new tomato, tasting as sweet as a peach, recently hit the shelves in the UK. The new Sugardrop tomato is the sweetest tomato ever created and is a natural hybrid of two different varieties of the fruit. It has
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- () our suppliers and asked them to find us a high quality tomato which would appeal to gourmets with a sweet tooth." She added, "It was the start of major research that involved our growers contacting all the major seed

GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

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A revolutionary new tomato, tasting as sweet as a peach, recently hit the shelves in the UK. The new Sugardrop tomato is the sweetest tomato (3)___ created and is a natural hybrid of two different varieties of the fruit. It has been developed to encourage children to eat (4)___ healthily and for (5)___ people who have a sweet tooth. (1)___ of its unusual taste it is expected to appeal to those people who find the normal versions too sharp. The breed is the result of two years of trials involving 3,000 different tomato varieties. It was developed for supermarket giant Tesco. The new tomato has been grown on the Costa Calida, in Murcia, southwest Spain and by the chain's grower, Paloma. Because of the highly competitive nature of the food world, the creators are not (6)___ revealing (7)___ two varieties were crossed to create the fruit. They fear (8)___ because of the potential of the Sugardrop (2)___ rival growers will try and copy it to muscle in on the £520m UK market.

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Tesco supermarket buyer Ashley McWilliams: "The gourmet bite had been planned from as early as 2007. A few years ago (1)___ met up with our suppliers and asked them to find us a high quality tomato which would appeal to gourmets with a sweet tooth." (2)___ added, "It was the start of major research that involved our growers contacting all the major seed houses in the world. They wanted to find varieties that they could cross pollinate to find (3)___ tomato with higher than normal sugar levels. The result is Sugardrop, which is the sweetest tomato there ever has been and now this week UK shoppers will be the first to try it." (4)___ tomato is a herbaceous plant native to South America, which can grow up to 10ft in height. They were not grown in England until the 1590s and (5)___ the mid-1700s were widely eaten throughout the country. (6)___ is now used as a staple ingredient in thousands of popular dishes including pizza, lasagne and spaghetti bolognaise. Sugardrop tomatoes are being sold (7)___ part of Tesco's Finest Food Range (8)___ will cost £1.50 for a 280g punnet.,

a

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and

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New super sweet tomato hits the shelves – 5th January 2010

SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	revolutionary	11	breed
2	tomatoes	12	hybrid
3	varieties	13	native
4	spaghetti	14	supermarket
5	bolognaise	15	normal
6	pollinate	16	shoppers
7	throughout	17	competitive
8	popular	18	herbaceous
9	pollinate	19	punnet
10	gourmets	20	muscle

LINKS

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/6636742/New-sweet-as-a-peach-tomato-goes-on-sale-in-Tesco.html>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1230187/New-Sugardrop-tomato-sweeter-peach.html>

<http://worcsterallotment.blogspot.com/2009/11/new-sugardrop-tomato-hits-shelves.html>

http://www.freshplaza.com/news_detail.asp?id=54501

<http://www.fruitnet.com/content.aspx?cid=4959&ttid=17>

ANSWERS

GAP FILL: New super-sweet tomato hits the shelves! A revolutionary new tomato, tasting as sweet as a **peach**, recently hit the **shelves** in the UK. The new Sugardrop **tomato** is the sweetest tomato ever created and is a natural hybrid of two different varieties of the fruit. It has been developed to encourage children to eat more healthily and for those people who have a sweet tooth. Because of its unusual **taste** it is expected to appeal to those people who find the normal versions too **sharp**. The breed is the result of two years of trials involving 3,000 different tomato varieties. It was developed for supermarket giant Tesco. The new tomato has been grown on the Costa Calida, in Murcia, southwest Spain and by the chain's grower, Paloma. Because of the highly competitive nature of the food world, the creators are not even revealing which two varieties were crossed to create the fruit. They fear that because of the **potential** of the Sugardrop other **rival** growers will try and copy it to muscle in on the £520m UK **market**. Tesco supermarket buyer Ashley McWilliams: "The **gourmet** bite had been planned from as early as 2007. A few years ago we met up with our suppliers and asked them to find us a high quality tomato which would appeal to gourmets with a sweet tooth." She added, "It was the start of major research that involved our growers contacting all the major **seed** houses in the world. They wanted to find **varieties** that they could cross **pollinate** to find a tomato with higher than normal sugar levels. The result is Sugardrop, which is the sweetest tomato there ever has been and now this week UK shoppers will be the first to try it." The tomato is a herbaceous plant **native** to South America, which can grow up to 10ft in **height**. They were not grown in England until the 1590s and by the mid-1700s were widely eaten throughout the country. It is now used as a **staple** ingredient in thousands of popular dishes including pizza, lasagne and spaghetti bolognaise. Sugardrop tomatoes are being sold as part of Tesco's Finest Food Range and will cost £1.50 for a 280g **punnet**. (V1)

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