

### Horse enjoys a refreshing pint in his local pub

A horse walks into a pub and says, "Mine's a pint please!" Really? Well, Basil the horse does! The Welsh Cob\*\* stallion visits his favoured watering hole every Sunday at the Meynell Ingram Arms in Burton, Staffordshire. In fact, Basil finds nothing more relaxing than a refreshing pint in his local pub. He enjoys mingling with the locals as he relaxes and sups on his favourite tipple in the country boozier. His favourite drink is the locally brewed ale Marson's Pedigree, which is always waiting for him at the bar in his very own glass.

Manager Guy Wallis: "Basil is one of a kind. He's been coming in the pub for years. After he's been for a ride he loves nothing more than to come inside for a quiet pint, with the locals. He's very cool and this is his ideal place to relax. He's a hit with the locals and everyone loves having him around. It doesn't seem strange having him in the pub, because he's like one of the regulars, he just pokes his head round the door and comes in and has a drink, just like everyone else."

However, the nine year old 14.2 hands pony\*\* has been trying to get in for years, before the landlord gave in and let Basil drink his favourite brew. Mr Wallis added, "His owners have been coming here for over ten years and he would always try to get his hoof in the door. But we couldn't deny him anymore and so he's been coming with them the last few years. If he's lucky we'll give him some vegetables to go with his pint. I think it's fantastic that pubs still have animals through the doors, just like the old days, we encourage all country life and animals are welcomed here. He's become such a regular customer here that I've given him his own glass, which he drinks from every time."

Basil's owners Wendy and Harvey Milnes said they love having him with them and sharing a pint together. Mr Milnes said, "When I was having a pint of Pedigree, Basil would put his lips round the glass and clearly loved the smell. So I gave him a taste and he's loved it ever since, but he's not in any way a lager fan, he sticks to ale. We've never got him drunk because we obviously don't want to turn him into an alcoholic, but he's allowed the occasional tipple."

(\*\*see page 8 – links)

**Category: England / Pubs / Horse in pub**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate**

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## EXERCISES

**1. English Pubs:** Briefly, what three things do you know about English pubs? 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?

**6. Let's think!** Think of five famous English beers. Then add five typical features found in an English pub. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these.

Five famous English beers	Five typical features found in an English pub
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 think!** In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with **English pubs**. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

**8. Let's talk! Radio England:** *In pairs*. You are in the Radio England studio. One of you is the presenter; the other student is the guest. Today's interview is: **English pubs**. *5 minutes*.

**9. Let's chat!** *In pairs*. You are in a traditional English pub. One of you is a barman/barmaid. The other would like to order a round of drinks and some food.

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**10. Let's think!** Think of five typical names of English pubs. Then add five reasons to visit a pub. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these. Which is the best pub name?

Five names of English pubs	Five reasons to visit a pub
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.

**11. 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 horse.
- 2) Name the pub.
- 3) What county is the pub in?
- 4) Name the beer.
- 5) How big is the horse?

**Student B**

- 1) What day does the horse enjoy a beer?
- 2) What does the horse not drink?
- 3) What does the landlord sometimes give the horse with his beer?
- 4) From what does the horse drink his beer?
- 5) What type of horse is he?

**12. Let's think!** Think of five other drinks sold in a pub. Try to think of some famous brand names associated with these drinks. Then add five typical English pub meals. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these.

Other drinks sold in a pub	Typical pub meals
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.

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

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

- a) Basil the horse \_\_\_\_\_
- b) English pubs \_\_\_\_\_
- c) A pint \_\_\_\_\_

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## DISCUSSION

### Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Do you prefer city pubs or country pubs? Why?
- 3) Do you prefer theme pubs or traditional pubs? Why?
- 4) What day do you go to the pub? Why?
- 5) What do you do in a pub? Why?
- 6) Following this lesson would you like to visit an English pub?
- 7) Are pubs in your country in decline? Why? Why not?
- 8) What is your favourite drink?
- 9) Do you enjoy pub grub? Which is your favourite pub grub?
- 10) Do you prefer real ale or lager? Why?

### Student B questions

- 1) In your country do you have 'rounds' whereby one person buys for the group e.g. four people (*then the others take it in turns to buy the next rounds*) (*This is how it is done in England*) **OR** do you all order and pay for separately your own drinks? (*This is how it is done in many places in Europe*)
- 2) When was the last time you visited a pub? Why?
- 3) What do you like to drink in a pub? Why?
- 4) Why do you go to a pub?
- 5) Are pubs expensive these days? If so, why is that?
- 6) What do you like to eat in pubs?
- 7) Does your pub have a traditional fireplace with an open fire?
- 8) Do you know of any animals that are allowed in pubs?
- 9) What do you think of English pubs?
- 10) What do you think of the no smoking ban inside pubs in England?

## SPEAKING

### Let's discuss! English pubs

*Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1*

Consider the following points to discuss:

English pubs, tradition, location, history, decline, pub grub, beer, other drinks sold, toilets, landlords, barmaids, the bar, drinking and driving, visiting an English pub while on holiday in England, a fireplace in a pub, smoking! Pub games, music, snacks, beer prices, opening times, pub gardens, quiz nights, pub discos, dominos, cards, Juke Box, pool table, rounds, pub gardens, pub quiz nights, darts.

The teacher can moderate the session.

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## GAP FILL: READING:

*Put the words into the gaps in the text.*

A horse walks into a (1)\_\_\_\_\_ and says, "Mine's a (2)\_\_\_\_\_ please!" Really? Well, Basil the horse does! The Welsh Cob stallion visits his favoured watering hole every Sunday at the Meynell Ingram Arms in Burton, Staffordshire. In fact, Basil finds nothing more relaxing than a (3)\_\_\_\_\_ pint in his (4)\_\_\_\_\_ pub. He enjoys mingling with the locals as he relaxes and (5)\_\_\_\_\_ on his favourite (6)\_\_\_\_\_ in the country (7)\_\_\_\_\_. His favourite drink is the locally brewed ale Marson's Pedigree, which is always waiting for him at the bar in his very own glass. Manager Guy Wallis: "Basil is one of a kind. He's been coming in the pub for years. After he's been for a ride he loves nothing more than to come inside for a quiet pint, with the locals. He's very cool and this is his ideal place to relax. He's a hit with the locals and everyone loves having him around. It doesn't seem strange having him in the pub, because he's like one of the (8)\_\_\_\_\_, he just pokes his head round the door and comes in and has a drink, just like everyone else."

*boozer*

*sups*

*pub*

*refreshing*

*regulars*

*tipple*

*local*

*pint*

However, the nine year old 14.2 hands pony has been trying to get in for years, before the (1)\_\_\_\_\_ gave in and let Basil drink his favourite (2)\_\_\_\_\_. Mr Wallis added, "His owners have been coming here for over ten years and he would always try to get his hoof in the door. But we couldn't deny him anymore and so he's been coming with them the last few years. If he's lucky we'll give him some vegetables to go with his pint. I think it's fantastic that (3)\_\_\_\_\_ still have animals through the doors, just like the old days, we encourage all country life and animals are welcomed here. He's become such a regular (4)\_\_\_\_\_ here that I've given him his own (5)\_\_\_\_\_, which he drinks from every time." Basil's owners Wendy and Harvey Milnes said they love having him with them and sharing a pint together. Mr Milnes said, "When I was having a pint of Pedigree, Basil would put his lips round the glass and clearly loved the smell. So I gave him a taste and he's loved it ever since, but he's not in any way a lager fan, he sticks to (6)\_\_\_\_\_. We've never got him (7)\_\_\_\_\_ because we obviously don't want to turn him into an (8)\_\_\_\_\_, but he's allowed the occasional tipple."

*alcoholic*

*ale*

*pubs*

*brew*

*glass*

*drunk*

*landlord*

*customer*

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## GAP FILL: LISTENING

*Listen and fill in the spaces.*

### Horse enjoys a refreshing pint in his local pub

A horse \_\_\_\_\_ says, "Mine's a pint please!" Really? Well, Basil the horse does! The Welsh Cob stallion visits his favoured watering hole every Sunday at the Meynell Ingram Arms in Burton, Staffordshire. In fact, Basil finds nothing more relaxing than a \_\_\_\_\_ his local pub. He enjoys mingling with the locals as he relaxes and sups on his favourite tippie in the country boozier. His favourite drink is the locally brewed ale Marson's Pedigree, which is always waiting \_\_\_\_\_ in his very own glass.

Manager Guy Wallis: "Basil is one of a kind. He's been coming in the pub for years. After he's been for a ride he loves nothing more than to come inside for a quiet pint, with the locals. He's very cool \_\_\_\_\_ place to relax. He's a hit with the locals and everyone loves having him around. It doesn't seem strange having him in the pub, because he's like one of the regulars, he \_\_\_\_\_ round the door and comes in and has a drink, just \_\_\_\_\_."

However, the nine year old 14.2 hands pony has been trying to get in for years, before the landlord gave in and let Basil drink his favourite brew. Mr Wallis added, "His owners have been coming here \_\_\_\_\_ and he would always try to get his hoof in the door. But we couldn't deny him anymore and so he's been coming with them the last few years. If he's lucky we'll give him some vegetables to go with his pint. I think it's fantastic that pubs \_\_\_\_\_ through the doors, just like the old days, we encourage all country life and animals are welcomed here. He's become such a regular customer here that I've given him his own glass, which he \_\_\_\_\_ time."

Basil's owners Wendy and Harvey Milnes said they \_\_\_\_\_ them and sharing a pint together. Mr Milnes said, "When I was having a pint of Pedigree, Basil would put his lips round the glass and clearly \_\_\_\_\_. So I gave him a taste and he's loved it ever since, but he's not in any way a lager fan, he sticks to ale. We've never got him drunk because we obviously don't want to turn him into an alcoholic, but he's allowed \_\_\_\_\_."

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## GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

### Horse enjoys a refreshing pint in his local pub

A horse walks (1)\_\_\_ a pub and says, "Mine's a pint please!" Really? Well, Basil the horse does! The Welsh Cob stallion visits his favoured watering hole every Sunday at the Meynell Ingram Arms in Burton, Staffordshire. In fact, Basil finds nothing (2)\_\_\_ relaxing (3)\_\_\_ a refreshing pint in his local pub. He enjoys mingling with the locals as he relaxes and sups on his favourite tipple in the country boozier. His favourite drink is the locally brewed ale Marson's Pedigree, (4)\_\_\_ is always waiting for him at the bar in his (5)\_\_\_ own glass. Manager Guy Wallis: "Basil is one of a kind. He's been coming in the pub for years. (6)\_\_\_ he's been for a ride he loves nothing more than to come inside for a quiet pint, with the locals. He's very cool and (7)\_\_\_ is his ideal place to relax. He's a hit with the locals and everyone loves having him around. It doesn't seem strange having him in the pub, because he's like one of the regulars, he (8)\_\_\_ pokes his head round the door and comes in and has a drink, just like everyone else."

**after**

**just**

**into**

**this**

**than**

**which**

**very**

**more**

However, (1)\_\_\_ nine year old 14.2 hands pony has been trying to get in (2)\_\_\_ years, before the landlord gave in and let Basil drink his favourite brew. Mr Wallis added, "His owners have been coming here for over ten years and he would always try to get (3)\_\_\_ hoof in the door. But we couldn't deny him anymore and so he's been coming with them the last few years. If he's lucky we'll give him some vegetables to go with his pint. I think it's fantastic that pubs still have animals through the doors, just like the old days, we encourage all country life and animals are welcomed here. He's become such a regular customer here that I've given him his own glass, which (4)\_\_\_ drinks from every time."

**and**

**him**

**his**

**he**

**the**

**for**

**but**

**so**

Basil's owners Wendy and Harvey Milnes said they love having him with them (5)\_\_\_ sharing a pint together. Mr Milnes said, "When I was having a pint of Pedigree, Basil would put his lips round the glass and clearly loved the smell. (6)\_\_\_ I gave (7)\_\_\_ a taste and he's loved it ever since, but he's not in any way a lager fan, he sticks to ale. We've never got him drunk because we obviously don't want to turn him into an alcoholic, (8)\_\_\_ he's allowed the occasional tipple."

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## 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	vegetables	11	fantastic
2	regular	12	anymore
3	obviously	13	favourite
4	through	14	mingling
5	hoof	15	boozer
6	pint	16	alcoholic
7	really	17	occasional
8	country	18	tipple
9	sups	19	lager
10	hoof	20	landlord

### LINKS

[http://www.hitched.co.uk/wedding-venues/the-meynell-ingram-arms\\_3764.htm](http://www.hitched.co.uk/wedding-venues/the-meynell-ingram-arms_3764.htm)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1355227/Basil-stallion-The-horse-walks-bar-orders-pint.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/howaboutthat/8313794/Horse-enjoys-a-refreshing-pint-in-his-local-pub.html>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cob\\_%28horse%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cob_%28horse%29)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Welsh\\_Pony\\_and\\_Cob](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Welsh_Pony_and_Cob)

### ANSWERS

**GAP FILL:** Horse enjoys a refreshing pint in his local pub: A horse walks into a **pub** and says, "Mine's a **pint** please!" Really? Well, Basil the horse does! The Welsh Cob stallion visits his favoured watering hole every Sunday at the Meynell Ingram Arms in Burton, Staffordshire. In fact, Basil finds nothing more relaxing than a **refreshing** pint in his **local** pub. He enjoys mingling with the locals as he relaxes and **sups** on his favourite **tipple** in the country **boozer**. His favourite drink is the locally brewed ale Marson's Pedigree, which is always waiting for him at the bar in his very own glass.

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However, the nine year old 14.2 hands pony has been trying to get in for years, before the **landlord** gave in and let Basil drink his favourite **brew**. Mr Wallis added, "His owners have been coming here for over ten years and he would always try to get his hoof in the door. But we couldn't deny him anymore and so he's been coming with them the last few years. If he's lucky we'll give him some vegetables to go with his pint. I think it's fantastic that **pubs** still have animals through the doors, just like the old days, we encourage all country life and animals are welcomed here. He's become such a regular **customer** here that I've given him his own **glass**, which he drinks from every time."

Basil's owners Wendy and Harvey Milnes said they love having him with them and sharing a pint together. Mr Milnes said, "When I was having a pint of Pedigree, Basil would put his lips round the glass and clearly loved the smell. So I gave him a taste and he's loved it ever since, but he's not in any way a lager fan, he sticks to **ale**. We've never got him **drunk** because we obviously don't want to turn him into an **alcoholic**, but he's allowed the occasional tipple." (V2)

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