

Japan's first Mad Cow Disease Death (Sat 5 Feb)

WARM UPS

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about cows / beef / BSE / CJD / meat / broccoli / human brain / being bedridden / ...

To make things more dynamic, try telling your students they only have one minute (or 2) on each chat topic before changing topics / partners. Change topic / partner frequently to energize the class.

BEEF BRAINSTORM: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with beef. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

MY HEALTH HISTORY: Talk to your partner about how your health record throughout your life / this year / ... Have you ever been hospitalized? Do you get colds often? etc.

GOVERNMENT ACTION: What should the Japanese government do now? Below is a list of measures the Ministry of Health might take. Student A agrees with them. Student B thinks they are unnecessary. Discuss. Change sides half way.

- (a) Ban all British beef.
- (b) Test all Japanese people to see if they have the disease.
- (c) Test all Japanese cows to see if they have the disease.
- (d) Ban the import of all foreign beef.
- (e) Find everyone who visited Britain in the early 1990s and see if they donated blood.
- (f) Turn all Japanese beef farms into ostrich farms?
- (g) Start selling home-testing kits for CJD for the public's safety.
- (h) Nothing.

PRE READING EXERCISES

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries, or a search engine, to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'mad', and 'cow'.

TRUE / FALSE: Predict from the headline whether these statements are true or false:

- (a) A cow died in Japan. T / F
- (b) A man died in Japan. T / F
- (c) Mad cow disease is called BSE for cows and CJD in humans. T / F
- (d) The man caught the disease from eating Japanese beef. T / F
- (e) He was able to walk and run right up to his death. T / F
- (f) The disease turns your brain into a sponge – large holes everywhere. T / F
- (g) Britain did nothing to prevent the spread of its BSE outbreak in the 1990s. T / F
- (h) No cows have yet been found with BSE in Japan. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | | |
|-----|-------------|---------------|
| (a) | ministry | incidence |
| (b) | confirmed | contaminated |
| (c) | case | slaughtering |
| (d) | contracting | judged |
| (e) | infected | incapacitated |
| (f) | diagnosed | revealed |
| (g) | dementia | department |
| (h) | bedridden | getting |
| (i) | resembling | senility |
| (j) | culling | similar to |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases based on the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (a) | Ministry | human case of Mad Cow Disease |
| (b) | the country's first | with BSE |
| (c) | scientific | as having the disease |
| (d) | died in December after | name |
| (e) | infected | of Health |
| (f) | He was diagnosed | resembling a sponge |
| (g) | The disease eats | about the safety of Japanese beef |
| (h) | turns it into something | measures |
| (i) | desperate | away at the brain |
| (j) | there is no concern | contracting the disease |

DEFINITIONS: Match the following words with the **most likely** definitions (Please think about the headline!):

(a) **Ministry** (n)

- (i) a government department that looks after an area of peoples' lives, such as health, transport, defence ...
- (ii) a very small area in which pigs are kept before they are slaughtered.

(b) **confirmed** (v)

- (i) when beef loses its softness and becomes tough and chewy
- (ii) made it 100% clear that something is true

(c) **refer** (v)

- (i) to call something by a particular name
- (ii) a kind of home-made cigarette people make to smoke marijuana

(d) **contracting** (v)

- (i) using a tractor to move cows around a field instead of dogs
- (ii) getting a disease – when it enters your body for the first time

(e) **infected** (v)

- (i) someone or something that has a disease
- (ii) a child who refuses to eat beef and always goes to the toilet to spit it out

(f) **diagnosed** (v)

- (i) when a disease or illness is identified by a doctor
- (ii) when your nose does not stop running and you have run out of tissues

(g) **dementia** (n)

- (i) to give a cow a special injection to protect it from BSE
- (ii) the loss of your brain functions such as intelligence, memory, ability to remember names ...

(h) **bedridden** (adj)

- (i) when children want to stay up and watch a video and so refuse to go to bed
- (ii) when you are so ill you have to stay in bed all day – you can't get out of bed

(i) **resembling** (v)

- (i) looking very similar to something else
- (ii) looking very different to something else

(j) **culling** (v)

- (i) the killing of a large number of animals for reasons of public safety, pest control etc
- (ii) the placing of large numbers of animals in special safe areas to protect them from hunters

GAP FILL

Japan's first Mad Cow Disease Death (Sat 5 Feb)

BNE: Japan's Ministry of Health yesterday _____ the country's first human case of Mad Cow Disease. The _____ name for the human form of the disease is Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease (CJD), although most people _____ to it as BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy). A 51-year-old man died in December after contracting the disease during a one-month stay in England in 1989. He got CJD after eating British beef that had been _____ with BSE. He first began showing signs of the disease in 2001, when he started suffering from mental problems. He was diagnosed as having the disease in 2002 and _____ set in last year, when he also became bedridden. The disease eats away at the brain, creating large holes, which turns it into something resembling a _____. A total of 157 people died from CJD in the early 1990s, 147 of them in Britain. The number of deaths forced the British government into _____ measures by culling nearly the entire population of cows. The beef and dairy industry in the UK was destroyed and took years to recover. British Beef was banned around the world for many years. Although 14 cows have been found to have BSE in Japan, there is no _____ about the safety of Japanese beef.

confirmed infected sponge concern scientific desperate dementia refer

DISCUSSION: Ask each other the following questions:

- (a) Do you like cows?
- (b) Do you like beef?
- (c) Are you worried about BSE / CJD?
- (d) Are you worried about the safety of food in general?
- (e) What kind of public health scare over beef (broccoli) would stop you stop eating it?
- (f) Have you ever been bedridden?
- (g) Do you have a good memory, or a memory like a sieve?
- (h) What are food safety standards like in your country?
- (i) Is there any food you would not eat because it's dangerous?
- (j) Is there any food from other countries you would not eat?
- (k) Would you eat British beef now?
- (l) What do you think of British food?
- (m) Teacher / Student additional questions

INTERNET / WEB LINKS:

All about beef:

<http://www.beef.org/>

700 beef recipes:

<http://beef.allrecipes.com/>

All about BSE:

<http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/bse.html>

Full UK Government report on BSE in Britain:

<http://www.bseinquiry.gov.uk/report/volume1/toc.htm>

Food safety:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/index_en.htm

HOMEWORK

BEEF INFO: Create a poster of why beef is (not) good for you.

FOOD SAFETY: Write a short article for a health magazine about what we should do to reduce the risk of being infected with disease from food.

FULL TEXT

Japan's first Mad Cow Disease Death (Sat 5 Feb)

BNE: Japan's Ministry of Health yesterday **confirmed** the country's first human case of Mad Cow Disease. The **scientific** name for the human form of the disease is Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD), although most people **refer** to it as BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy). A 51-year-old man died in December after contracting the disease during a one-month stay in England in 1989. He got CJD after eating British beef that had been **infected** with BSE. He first began showing signs of the disease in 2001, when he started suffering from mental problems. He was diagnosed as having the disease in 2002 and **dementia** set in last year, when he also became bedridden. The disease eats away at the brain, creating large holes, which turns it into something resembling a **sponge**. A total of 157 people died from CJD in the early 1990s, 147 of them in Britain. The number of deaths forced the British government into **desperate** measures by culling nearly the entire population of cows. The beef and dairy industry in the UK was destroyed and took years to recover. British Beef was banned around the world for many years. Although 14 cows have been found to have BSE in Japan, there is no **concern** about the safety of Japanese beef.