

The Chicken Nugget Experiment

1 LEAD IN Watch the video and answer the following questions.

What different kinds of fast food are the kids singing about?

What other kinds of fast food can you think of?



2 VOCABULARY Check the meanings of the words in the box. Then discuss the questions, using the vocabulary where appropriate.

inexpensive nutritious convenient processed home-cooked
 ingredients saturated fat additives: colouring flavouring stabiliser preservatives
 balanced diet obesity

1. Why do some people eat a lot of fast food? Try and give at least three reasons.
2. Why do some people try and avoid it? Try and give at least three reasons.

3 VIDEO In this video clip, Jamie Oliver, a British Chef, is trying to persuade American school-kids to eat more healthily. Watch to 0.56 and answer the following questions.



1. What choice did the kids make last time Jamie cooked for them?
2. Has Jamie done this experiment before? How do you know?
3. What kind of processed food does Jamie mention as being one of the 'worst'?
4. What does Jamie want to achieve with this experiment?



4 Now watch the next section, from 0.56-3.40.

In what ways does Jamie try hard to shock the children?
 Did you find it disgusting? Why/why not?
 Why do you think it didn't stop the children wanting to eat the nuggets?

5 Watch the final section. Why does Jamie think the kids still ate the nuggets?**6 GRAMMAR**

a) Look at the following quote from the video. Which of the words and phrases in the box could you use to replace 'even though', *keeping the same meaning*?

'Even though they know it's disgusting and gross, they'll still eat it if it's in that friendly little shape.'

Even if Although However Despite the fact But In spite of the fact

b) How would you have to change the sentence to use 'despite' and 'in spite of' (without using 'the fact') ?

c) Rewrite each of the sentences below, using the word in capitals.

1 The experiment was a failure, even though it had succeeded with British kids.
 DESPITE

2 Although Jamie tried his best to shock the kids, they still wanted to eat the nuggets.
 BUT

3 Despite the fact that the kids found the mixed up bones and skin disgusting, they still wanted to eat it.
 FINDING

4 In spite of recent health scares, most people will continue to eat processed meat.
 FACT

5 The experiment was a failure, despite Jamie claiming that it 'never failed'.
 ALTHOUGH

7 FURTHER DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Which of the following factors do you think encourage people to eat processed and 'fast' food?

Poverty Not learning to cook properly Working long hours Laziness Addiction to salt and sugar

What, if anything, do you think the Government should do about helping people to eat more healthily?



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Key and Notes

1

The song goes 'A Pizza hut, a Pizza hut, Kentucky Fried Chicken and a Pizza Hut. McDonalds, McDonalds, Kentucky Fried Chicken and a Pizza Hut.' Obviously, Pizza Hut sells pizza, KFC fried chicken (including chicken nuggets) and McDonalds is famous for burgers, though they also sell chicken nuggets and fried fish.

Students might also mention fish and chips, kebabs, and many other foods, depending on your context. Incidentally, at time of writing, there is a big scandal in the UK about 'ready meals' (microwaveable), that have been found to be made with horsemeat instead of beef. People in the UK don't usually eat horsemeat, but the biggest problem is that the horses may have had dangerous drugs in their systems.

2

[Stabiliser is a kind of additive which is used to stop parts of a food separating, such as oil and water.]

1. Why do some people eat a lot of fast food? Convenience, because it's cheap, because the fat and salt and sugar make it taste good.

NB This question is explored more fully in the final speaking activity, so no need to pull out every possible reason here.

2. Why do some people try and avoid it? Not very nutritious, processed, too much fat, salt and sugar...

3

- 1 They chose processed food over home-cooked food
- 2 He says he's done it many time before 'back home'- in the UK, and that it always worked.
- 3 Chicken nuggets
- 4 To make the kids think about what they are putting in their bodies.

4

- 5 He waves the bones at them, he keeps repeating bones, skin, connective tissue etc, he uses words like 'horrible' and 'disgusting'
- 6&7 are subjective questions.

5

Because even though they knew they were bad, they looked familiar.

6 GRAMMAR

- a) 'Although', 'Despite the fact' and 'In spite of the fact' all have the same meaning as 'even though'

'Even if' is often confused with 'even though' but it is a conditional phrase, meaning whether or not. E.g. Even if it was sunny, I still wouldn't want to go out for a walk today.'

'However' and 'but' could be used with the second clause, though 'However' would need to start a new sentence.

'They know it's disgusting and gross, but they'll still eat it if it's in that friendly little shape.'

'They know it's disgusting and gross. However, they'll still eat it if it's in that friendly little shape.'

b)

'Despite/in spite of knowing it's disgusting and gross, they'll still eat it if it's in that friendly little shape.'

Despite and in spite of are followed by a noun, noun phrase (e.g. the fact [that]) or a gerund.

c)

- 1 The experiment was a failure, despite succeeding/having succeeded with British kids.
- 2 Jamie tried his best to shock the kids, but they still wanted to eat the nuggets.
- 3 Despite finding the mixed up bones and skin disgusting, they still wanted to eat it.
- 4 In spite of the fact that there have been recent health scares, most people will continue to eat processed meat.
- 5 The experiment was a failure, although Jamie (had) claimed that it 'never failed'.