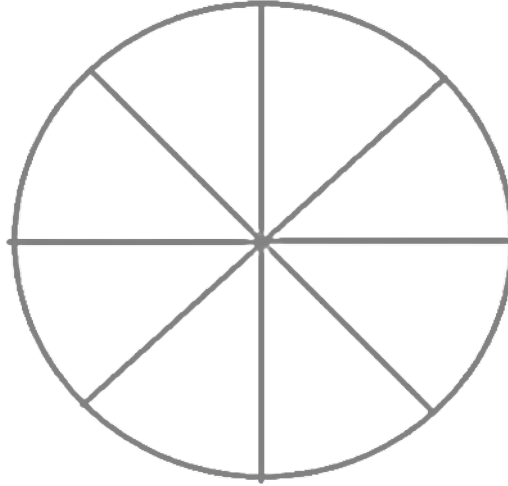


I've eaten pizza every day for six years

Level 3: Advanced

1 Warmer

- a. What are your favourite pizza toppings? Draw your ideal pizza in the space below. You can use as many toppings as you'd like.



2 Key words

- a. Match the words in the box to their definitions. Then, find and highlight them in the text to read them in context.

assumed	char	chewy	coal	convention
crispy	crust	ease	fix	go amiss
leftovers	metabolism	plain	streak	supportive

1. the tough outer part of a pizza _____
2. simple; not elaborate _____
3. something that is perceived as wrong _____
4. not requiring a big effort to do _____
5. food that has not been eaten at the end of a meal _____
6. showing empathy and encouragement _____
7. an amount of something that a person needs _____
8. conference _____
9. pleasantly hard and dry _____
10. requiring a lot of chewing before being swallowed _____
11. a hard, black combustible mineral substance widely used as a fuel or for cooking _____

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Level 3: Advanced

12. cooked until it is blackened and slightly burnt, often adding a desirable smoky flavour _____
13. supposed to be the case, without proof _____
14. the chemical processes in one's body that transform food into energy _____
15. period of time in which an event happens repeatedly or continues to happen _____

b. Use some of the key words above to complete these sentences. You may need to change the form of the word.

1. If you notice anything _____ with the project, please let me know so I can address the issue.
2. She seems to be at _____ in this class. She clearly feels better here than she did with her previous group.
3. Are there any _____ from last night? I'm starving!
4. She's been super _____ through the whole process. I can't thank her enough.
5. I need to book a venue for our yearly _____. There will be 400 attendees this year.
6. Why are these biscuits so _____? Are they old?
7. Are they still using _____ to power engines?
8. He _____ we wanted to go out but we actually preferred to stay home.
9. A slow _____ may prevent you from losing weight.
10. They are definitely on a winning _____ – they've won 10 consecutive matches!

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I've tried peanut butter and bacon pizza, and had a caviar one, too

Kenny Wildes

3 May, 2024

- 1 There is nothing I like more in this world than pizza. I grew up in the early 90s in Connecticut, where my dad owned a pizzeria called Kenny V's until I was three. I still have his old restaurant sign in my garage.
- 2 For the last six years, I've eaten pizza every single day. Sometimes it might just be a slice, but most days I will get through a whole one. My favourite is a classic American deep-pan pepperoni. I also love tomato and cheese on a nice thick crust, so a plain margherita will never go amiss.
- 3 I used to work for a company that looks after heating and cooling systems. My colleague and I would be on the road all day, and the quickest thing for me to grab to eat was a pizza. One day, he said: "I bet you couldn't eat it every day for a week." I rose to the challenge with ease. He then extended the bet to a month. By the end, I felt I could go for longer.
- 4 I set up a social media account to document my progress, and six years on, I'm still going strong. I love comparing versions of the same flavour by different chefs, and trying new flavours. Peanut butter and bacon, and beefaroni and caviar are some of the wildest combinations I've had, though they made me realise that I prefer to keep my pizza simple. I'm confident in stating that pineapple definitely doesn't go on pizza.
- 5 I'll keep up my habit during the holidays, even when businesses are closed. On Thanksgiving, I'll drive to the casino to get a slice, and will buy enough pizzas on Christmas Eve so that there are leftovers for Christmas Day. On our wedding day, my wife and I ordered cheese pizzas for guests at the end of the evening.
- 6 My wife is very supportive and often brings slices home. Last year, I spent 16 days in Italy exploring Rome, Naples and the Amalfi coast with her and our daughter. I ate pizza there, too, of course. My family does get
- 7 tired of pizza though. I usually try to get my fix during lunch breaks, so I can have the same meal as them in the evening. But I've always got room for leftover slices after dinner.
- 7 Just over a year ago, a pizza-box company saw my Instagram and asked if I'd be interested in working for them. I left my job to sell boxes to pizza stores full-time. It's the perfect job for me, as I can travel and try pizzas from all over the country. This spring, I had pizza in 10 different US states. I also went to Las Vegas for a pizza convention. My favourite crust is the thick, crispy and chewy style from New Haven, Connecticut. The city has the best pizza I've ever tried. I love eating at a place called Sally's Apizza, which has been open since 1938. The sauce is like nothing I've ever had, and the coal-fired oven puts the perfect char on the crust.
- 8 I love hearing people's stories about why they opened a pizzeria – often the business has been passed down from their parents. People are surprised to discover that I'm not interested in opening up my own (my dad's has closed down). I see how hard these business owners work; I wouldn't want to be away from my family for that long.
- 9 I've only recently started showing my face on my Instagram. I used to only post pictures and videos of the pizzas I was eating. I'm quite shy and was keen for the page to just be about the food, but I think people connect more when they see the person behind the account. Everyone assumed I was a big guy, but I'm actually pretty skinny. I guess I can thank my metabolism for that. Sometimes people will get in touch with concerns about the healthiness of my habit, but I'm fit and healthy. I appreciate people worrying, though, because it means they care.
- 10 My social media following has really grown. Two chefs recently made me a pizza in the shape of "50k" to celebrate my follower count – I've actually hit 60k since. I still see the colleague who originally challenged me.

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He laughs and calls me crazy but is impressed that I've kept it up all these years.

- 11 I think people find it hard to understand why I do it, and just how much I love pizza – but it's as simple as that. I'll continue my streak as long as I'm still excited about pizza, and I'm happy to enjoy my delicious journey, one bite at a time.

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Level 3: Advanced

3 Comprehension check

a. Complete the sentences using words and phrases from the article.

1. The writer usually eats _____ pizza per day.
2. A friend proposed _____ and he just accepted.
3. He shares his _____ on social media.
4. He manages to eat pizza every day even when every restaurant is _____.
5. He even had pizza on his _____.
6. The writer often has his _____ of pizza before going back home.
7. His current job allows him to _____ all sorts of pizzas.
8. He makes it clear he wouldn't be keen on _____ his own pizzeria.
9. Many people are worried about the _____ of his diet.
10. He's still _____ pizza so he's not planning to stop eating it any time soon.

4 Key language

a. Complete the phrasal verbs in these sentences from the article.

1. Sometimes it might just be a slice, but most days I will get _____ a whole one.
2. I used to work for a company that looks _____ heating and cooling systems.
3. I _____ up a social-media account to document my progress, and six years on, I'm still going strong.
4. I love hearing people's stories about why they opened a pizzeria – often the business has been passed _____ from their parents.
5. I'll _____ up my habit during the holidays, even when businesses are closed.

b. Use the expressions from task A to complete the sentences. You may have to adapt the expressions accordingly.

1. continue a course of action _____
2. take care of _____
3. give something to someone younger than you _____
4. create or start something _____
5. finish _____

c. Choose three expressions from tasks A and B and write personalised sentences.

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5 Discussion

a. Discuss these statements.

- "I'm confident in stating that pineapple definitely doesn't go on pizza."
- "People connect more when they see the person behind the account."
- The food I could eat every day for a long time is _____.

6 In your own words

a. With a partner, create a short survey (six to ten questions) to learn about your classmates' eating habits.

b. Create an infographic to present the results of the survey and suggest changes your classmates should make in order to have a better, more balanced diet.