

Global or Local food, which is better?

Global or Local food, which is better? Globalisation in the food industry has brought many benefits. Our food is cheaper, tastier and more varied. In the past our diet was governed by the seasons of the local climate. Green vegetables were cheaper and more abundant in the spring and early summer. Root vegetables and fruits arrived later in the late summer and autumn.

People say that in the past our diet was healthier but before the globalisation of the food industry, winter was always a time when people were thinner and less well-nourished. It was much more difficult to find good food during the darker, colder months.

Since the globalisation of the food industry our diet is not controlled by our local climate. Strawberries may be more expensive in the winter than they are in the summer, but they are in the shops and we can buy them. Our winter strawberries have come from countries where the weather is warmer. Our winter strawberries are expensive but not too expensive because they come from countries where farm workers earn less money.

Globalisation has made life better in the richer, colder parts of the world. The poorer, hotter parts have developed their farms, plantations and food production industries. This has reduced unemployment and given people larger incomes than they had before. The globalisation of the food industry seems to have made life better for everyone.

Many people are not very happy that food travels so far from the field to the plate. They have started to measure the 'food miles' in our diet. Nearly half of the vegetables we buy in Britain have come from other countries. When we look at fruit the percentage is even greater. 95% of our fruit is imported. Nearly one third of the goods travelling on British roads are vehicles transporting food.

The opposite of globalisation is localisation. Consumers are asking for more locally produced food products. They say that local food products are fresher and healthier. Local food products are better for the environment because they have travelled fewer food miles. People who buy local food products feel they are getting premium products and supporting local employment.

1. Read the text and write the correct comparative forms of these adjectives.

a)	cheap	cheaper
b)	tasty	
c)	varied	
d)	abundant	
e)	late	
f)	healthy	
g)	thin	
h)	difficult	
i)	dark	
j)	cold	
k)	expensive	
l)	warm	
m)	good	
n)	rich	
o)	poor	
p)	hot	
q)	large	
r)	great	
s)	fresh	

2. thinner = less fat. Make comparative adjectives with less.

a)	cheaper	less expensive
b)	thinner	
c)	more difficult	
d)	darker	
e)	colder	
f)	more expensive	
g)	better	
h)	richer	
i)	poorer	
j)	larger	

3. too expensive = not cheap enough. Make opposite using not adjective enough.

a)	too poor	not rich enough
b)	too cold	
c)	too far	
d)	too dark	
e)	too bad	
f)	too hot	

4. Read the text again carefully. Mark the statement true or false according to the ideas in the text.

		True	False
a)	Since the globalisation of the food industry food is less expensive.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b)	Our diet is more varied thanks to globalisation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c)	Our diet is more seasonal since globalisation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d)	Green vegetables were not scarce in spring and summer.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e)	Fruit and root vegetables arrived later than green vegetables.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f)	In the past, people were better-nourished during the winter.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g)	Winter strawberries are grown in places where the climate is less cold.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h)	In poorer, hotter countries farm workers earn more money.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i)	Globalisation has improved life in the richer, colder parts of the world.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j)	Globalisation means that food does not travel as far as before.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k)	More than 50% of the vegetables eaten in Britain are imported.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l)	Local food does less damage to the environment.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>