NEWS LESSON

Would You Put Pineapple on a Pizza?



BEFORE YOU READ

1 Warm up

Talk about these questions with a partner.

1. Is there a food that you love and your friends think is strange?
2. Would you send a dish back if the cook made it differently?
3. What is the most traditional meal in your country?

2 Key words

These words are in the article. Write the letter of the meaning (A to H) in each box.

1	**combination**	☐	A	speak or act to protect something
2	**divides**	☐	B	with very strong feelings
3	**strongly**	☐	C	styles that are popular for a short time
4	**defend**	☐	D	a talk where people do not agree
5	**fashions**	☐	E	says that something is OK
6	**allows**	☐	F	two or more things put together
7	**connect**	☐	G	splits people into groups that disagree
8	**argument**	☐	H	join one thing to another

3 Read

Read the article and underline the key words from task 2. The paragraphs are numbered.

An Italian chef in Australia lost his job because he would not add pineapple. The argument is older than you think.

1 Pizza brings people together. Then somebody mentions pineapple, and the table divides. Some people love sweet fruit against salty cheese. Others say it has no place on a pizza at all.

2 An Italian chef called Davide Tamburella felt so strongly about it that it cost him his job. He was working at a restaurant in Brisbane, Australia, and he refused to put pineapple on a pizza. He told his customers and his boss that the combination was an insult to Italian culture. The restaurant sacked him. There is a small joke hidden in the story. Queensland, the state where Brisbane is, grows almost all of Australia's pineapples.

3 He is not the first cook to lose a job this way. In 2017 a chef from Bologna was sacked by a restaurant near Lyon, in France. He had refused to cook the pasta for longer, and he would not serve spaghetti bolognese, because that dish does not exist in Bologna.

4 Luca Cesari is a food historian who has written a history of pizza. In an opinion article for The Guardian, he explains why Italians react so strongly. Food fashions are changing quickly, he says, and there are now more chefs on television than grandmothers cooking at home. People can feel that something they love is in danger.

5 But Cesari also points out a problem. Many of the rules Italians defend are not very old at all. Pasta was eaten soft for hundreds of years. Cream in carbonara was introduced by a few cooks in Rome in the 1960s. The pizza of a hundred years ago was nothing like the pizza we eat today.

6 Not every Italian is against pineapple either. Gino Sorbillo, a famous pizza maker, allows it on a white pizza with no tomato. Franco Pepe, who many people call the best in the world, invented a pizza cone filled with pineapple, ham and cheese.

7 So who decides what is traditional? A recipe can connect us to our family and our home. It can also change, as it always has. Perhaps the best table is one where the old version and the new one sit side by side, and the argument is part of the meal.

Sources: The Guardian, Pineapple on pizza is an insult to our great Italian cuisine, and here's why we secretly love it. Picture: .

4 True, false or not given

Circle **T** (true), **F** (false) or **NG** (the article does not say).

1. The restaurant where Tamburella worked is in a state that grows pineapples. T F NG
2. Tamburella was the first chef to lose a job like this. T F NG
3. Tamburella found a new job soon after the restaurant sacked him. T F NG
4. Luca Cesari thinks all the rules Italians defend are very old. T F NG
5. Franco Pepe has made a pizza with pineapple in it. T F NG

5 Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed.

carbonara	danger	historian	invented	sacked	sauce	waiter

1. After the argument, the restaurant _____ the chef and he had to find a new job.
2. Luca Cesari is a food _____ who has written a history of pizza.
3. Cream in _____ was introduced by a few cooks in Rome in the 1960s.
4. People can feel that something they love is in _____ .
5. Franco Pepe _____ a pizza cone filled with pineapple, ham and cheese.

6 Verb forms

Write the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. He _____ to put pineapple on a pizza. (REFUSE)
2. He _____ his customers that the combination was an insult. (TELL)
3. Pasta _____ soft for hundreds of years. (EAT)
4. The pizza of a hundred years ago _____ nothing like the pizza we eat today. (BE)
5. Queensland _____ almost all of Australia's pineapples. (GROW)

7 Language focus: linking words

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed. Use so for a result, because for a reason, but for a contrast and although for a surprise.

although	because	but	or	so	then	unless

1. He felt strongly about pizza, _____ he refused to add fruit.
2. Some people love pineapple on pizza, _____ others hate it.
3. He lost his job _____ he would not change the recipe.
4. _____ Italians defend old rules, many of those rules are quite new.
5. First he said no. _____ the boss told him to leave.

SPEAK

8 Talk about it

Discuss in pairs or small groups. Give reasons for your answers.

1. Was the chef right to refuse, or should he have made the pizza?
2. Should a recipe always stay the same?
3. Which meal reminds you most of home?

9 Role-play: pineapple on the menu

Work in pairs. Read your card, then have the conversation. Swap roles and do it again.

Student A · the restaurant owner

A customer wants pineapple on a pizza. Your chef says no. Ask why he refuses and what he wants to do. Decide whether to say yes, say no, or find a middle way.

Student B · the chef

You are a proud Italian chef. A customer wants pineapple on a pizza and you think it's wrong. Explain your reasons, but remember that you need your job.

Useful phrases

I'm sorry, but I can't put pineapple on a pizza.
It's not a real Italian pizza.
The customer's always right, you know.
I'd rather lose my job than do it.
Could we offer it on a white pizza?
Let's find a solution we're both happy with.

Afterwards, tell the class: did the chef keep his job, and who gave way first?

ANSWER KEY

2 Key words

1 F · 2 G · 3 B · 4 A · 5 C · 6 E · 7 H · 8 D

4 True, false or not given

1 T · 2 F · 3 NG · 4 F · 5 T

5 Vocabulary

1 sacked · 2 historian · 3 carbonara · 4 danger · 5 invented

6 Verb forms

1 refused · 2 told · 3 was eaten · 4 was · 5 grows

7 Language focus

1 so · 2 but · 3 because · 4 Although · 5 Then

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