

This is not a word-for-word transcript

Neil

Hello. Welcome to 6 Minute English, I'm Neil.

Catherine

And I'm Catherine.

Neil

Catherine, I'm going to start this programme with a quick test, just for you.

Catherine

Ooo, I love tests!

Neil

Complete this phrase: Wake up and smell the...

Catherine

Coffee Neil! It's coffee. I have to say, I love coffee, it's great.

Neil

OK, so do you drink much?

Catherine

Well, just a couple of cups, you know.

Neil

Every day?

Catherine

No, every hour! I love coffee, don't you like coffee, Neil?

Neil

I do but maybe not as much as you! What's the best thing about it?

Catherine

It's the smell. It's got to be the smell. You know, when you open the packet, it's great isn't it?

Neil

Yes, but it never quite tastes as good as it smells, does it?

Catherine

Well no, not really. It's always a little disappointing. I live in hope, another cup, I think it will be better. I might change brands actually and try a different one.

Neil

OK, you've had quite a lot of coffee today, haven't you?

Catherine

Just the usual six cups.

Neil

Well, our topic today is the smell of coffee and coffee is also the subject of today's question. The world's biggest producer of coffee is...

Catherine

Brazil! Brazil!

Neil

Yes, yes, but that's not the question. The question is, Brazil is the biggest coffee producer, which is the second largest coffee producing country? Is it:

a: Colombia

b: Vietnam

c: Ethiopia

Catherine

Right, so it's not Brazil but I bet it's another South American country, so I'm going to go for Columbia. Columbia, is that right?

Neil

OK, we'll have the answer later in the programme by which time, maybe the caffeine will have left your body Catherine. Tim Hayward is a coffee shop owner. He appeared in the BBC Radio 4 programme The Kitchen Cabinet. How important does he say the smell of coffee is?

Tim Hayward, Coffee shop owner

It's absolutely **vital**, it's the **key** thing. And when you walk in to the coffee shop in the morning and that smell hits you, you're getting **physiological responses**.

Neil

So how important is it?

Catherine

I'm feeling a bit calmer now. Tim Hayward says the smell of coffee is **vital**. That means it's very important, it's perhaps the most important thing. And he backs this up by saying that it's the **key** thing. Something that's **key** is something that is essential, it's really important.

Neil

And he says that when you experience the smell, when the smell hits you, you get a **physiological response**. This phrase means your body has a reaction to the smell of coffee. Perhaps your mouth begins to water in anticipation. Catherine, when you get a coffee, do you normally have it there or take it away?

Catherine

Well, I usually take it away, although if I'm feeling really in need of a coffee hit, I might have one there and then get another one and take with me.

Neil

Can you describe the container you are given when you have a coffee to go?

Catherine

Yes, it's in a tall paper cup with a lid. And the lid has a hole in it so that I can drink that lovely coffee.

Neil

Don't you think that's a problem? I mean, we know how important the smell is, so what is the effect of the lid on that experience?

Catherine

The effect of the lid?

Neil

Yes. Well here's Tim Hayward again talking about coffee being served with lids.

Tim Hayward

What **baffles** me is that how many of the large coffee **chains** actually sell a product in a cup that removes the smell. So you walk into the coffee shop, you get the smell, but when you actually take the drink out you are drinking it from something that is designed to deliver the hot liquid directly past your tongue but stop any smell coming up to your nose. That's just **weird**.

Neil

So what is he describing there?

Catherine

I see now, yes, He's talking about the big coffee **chains**. A **chain** is a company that has lots of its stores in towns and cities sometimes around the world. I think we can all think of a few well-known coffee chains. He says that by putting a lid on take away cups, you're actually blocking the smell - that smell that is really important to the coffee experience.

Neil

Yes, and he says that he finds that **weird**, which is a way of saying he finds it unusual, thinks it's strange, odd. So much so that he says it **baffles** him. If you are **baffled** by something, you find it confusing, you can't really understand it. Here's Tim Hayward again.

Tim Hayward

What **baffles** me is that how many of the large coffee **chains** actually sell a product in a cup that removes the smell. So you walk into the coffee shop, you get the smell, but when you actually take the drink out you are drinking it from something that is designed to deliver the hot liquid directly past your tongue but stop any smell coming up to your nose. That's just **weird**.

Neil

That was coffee shop owner Tim Hayward. Right before we have another cup of this week's vocabulary, let's get the answer to the question. After Brazil, which country produces most coffee? Is it:

a: Colombia

b: Vietnam

c: Ethiopia

Catherine, you said?

Catherine

I said it was a: Colombia.

Neil

Ah, sorry, no extra coffee for you today! The answer is Vietnam. And now on to the vocabulary we looked at. Take it away Catherine.

Catherine

So the first word was **vital**, which is an adjective that means very important. And another word with a very similar meaning was **key**, meaning essential.

Neil

Next we had the phrase **physiological responses**. **Physiological** refers to what our bodies do and a **response** is a reaction. So a **physiological response** is a reaction your body has to something, like the smell of coffee.

Catherine

Something that **baffles** you, confuses you, you don't understand it.

Neil

You might find something that **baffles** you to be **weird**. This adjective means unusual or strange.

Catherine

And finally, a **chain** is a group of shops from the same company with the same name.

Neil

Well that is the end of our programme. For more from us, check out Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and our App and of course the website bbclearningenglish.com. See you soon, bye.

Catherine

Bye! Fancy a coffee?

Neil

I think you've had too much!

VOCABULARY

vital

very important

key

essential, necessary

a physiological response

a reaction your body has to something, like a smell

to be baffled by something

to be confused by something, to not understand it

a chain

a group of shops from the same company, all the shops have the same design and sell the same or very similar products

weird

unusual, strange