

# 6 Minute English

## The future of food

*This is not a word-for-word transcript*

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**Neil**

Hello. This is 6 Minute English I'm Neil.

**Sam**

And I'm Sam.

**Neil**

Sam, have you considered the future of food much?

**Sam**

Well, I think in the future I might have a sandwich – in about 30 minutes in the future.

**Neil**

Not quite what I meant! With the population of the world increasing along with the negative effects of climate change and other global issues, we might have to radically change our diets in the future.

**Sam**

Ah, yes I have heard about this – there are all sorts of developments from growing artificial meat to developing insect-based foods.

**Neil**

Mmm, tasty. Well we'll look a little more at this topic shortly, but we start, as ever, with a question and it's a food-based question. In which continent did tomatoes originate? Is it...

A: South America

B: Africa

C: Asia

What do you think, Sam?

**Sam**

No idea. I'm going to say Africa, but that's just a guess.

**Neil**

OK. Well I will reveal the answer later in the programme. On a recent edition of BBC Radio 4's The Food Programme there was an interview with Dr Morgaine Gaye. She is a **futurologist**. A **futurologist** is someone who studies and predicts the way we will be living in the future. Her particular area of expertise is the subject of food. What two things does she say she thinks about?

**Dr Morgaine Gaye**

As a food **futurologist**, I think about not just what we're going to be eating in the future but why. Why that thing, why that **trend**, why will people suddenly **latch onto** that food, that way of eating that food at that particular time? And when I work for large companies, that's what they want to know. There is an element of a **hunch**. And then proving or disproving that **hunch**.

**Neil**

So, what two things does she think about?

**Sam**

She says that as a food **futurologist** she thinks about what we will be eating in the future and also why we will be eating that food.

**Neil**

Yes, in particular she looks at why there are particular **trends**. A **trend** is what is popular now or what is becoming popular. For example, at the moment there is a **trend** for eating less red meat.

**Sam**

She also looks at why people **latch onto** particular **trends**. To **latch onto** here means to be very interested in something. So if you **latch onto** a particular food **trend**, you start to follow that **trend**, you might start eating that particular diet.

**Neil**

Information about future **trends** is very important for companies in the food business. How does she actually predict these **trends**?

**Sam**

She says she starts with a **hunch**. A **hunch** is a feeling you get that something is true. You don't have any real evidence, but your experience and knowledge makes you think you might be right.

**Neil**

Let's listen again.

**Dr Morgaine Gaye**

As a food **futurologist** I think about not just what we're going to be eating in the future but why. Why that thing, why that **trend** why will people suddenly **latch onto** that food, that way of eating that food at that particular time? And when I work for large companies,

that's what they want to know. There is an element of **a hunch**. And then proving or disproving that **hunch**.

**Neil**

Dr Gaye goes on to talk about how on the subject of food, there are restrictions. Why is that?

**Dr Morgaine Gaye**

Food business of course has different restrictions around it because it's about safety, we're **ingesting** that. The supply chain and the labelling laws are very **stringent** especially in this country so it takes longer to get an idea from just a concept that's discussed around a table to an actual production facility, labelled, branded, tested, marketed and put on the shelves.

**Neil**

So, why restrictions?

**Sam**

Well, it's about safety. Because we are **ingesting** food, which is a way of saying we are putting it into our bodies, it has to be safe.

**Neil**

It can be a long process of developing a new food and getting it into the shops because of the need to be safe and meet the laws of different countries. In the UK she mentions that the food safety laws are very **stringent**. This means that the laws are very tough, very strict. Let's hear Dr Gaye again.

**Dr Morgaine Gaye**

Food business of course has different restrictions around it because it's about safety, we're **ingesting** that, the supply chain and the labelling laws are very **stringent** especially in this country so it takes longer to get an idea from just a concept that's discussed around a table to an actual production facility, labelled, branded, tested, marketed and put on the shelves.

**Neil**

Right, well before we review our vocabulary, let's get the answer to the question. In which continent did tomatoes originate? Is it...

A: South America

B: Africa

C: Asia

Sam, what did you say?

**Sam**

I made a guess at Africa.

**Neil**

Well, I'm afraid that's not right. Congratulations though to everyone who said South America. Right, let's recap today's words and expressions.

**Sam**

OK, well we started with the word **futurologist**. This is a noun to describe someone who studies and predicts the way we will be living in the future.

**Neil**

Then we had **trend**. This word can describe what is popular now and the way in which what is popular is changing. For example now we are seeing a trend for eating less red meat in some parts of the world.

**Sam**

If you **latch onto** something, you become interested in it and associate yourself with it – we heard that people very quickly **latch onto** food **trends**

**Neil**

Then there was **hunch**. A **hunch** is a feeling about something you think might be true even though you don't have real evidence for it.

**Neil**

**Ingesting** something means taking it into your body, so eating or drinking it.

**Sam**

And finally a **stringent** rule is a very strict rule, a tough rule or law which in connection to food is designed to make sure it is safe and of a suitable quality.

**Neil**

OK, thank you, Sam. That's all from 6 Minute English. Goodbye!

**Sam**

Bye!

## **VOCABULARY**

### **a futurologist**

a person who studies and predicts how we will live in the future

### **a trend**

a way to refer to something that is popular now or that is becoming popular

### **to latch onto**

become very interested in

### **a hunch**

a feeling you have based on your knowledge and experience that something might be true even though you don't have any real evidence

### **ingesting**

taking into your body, i.e. eating and drinking

### **stringent**

strict, strong