Indian food in Britain

Many Indians live in Britain, so Indian food has become more and more popular there. You can find Indian takeaways or restaurants in most towns. In these restaurants you can eat all kinds of Indian meals, for example curries. The Indian curry is a meal with vegetables or meat in a special sauce. You eat it with rice.

In Manchester people like to go to the famous ‘Curry Mile’: a long street with hundreds of Indian restaurants. The food is very cheap, but really good quality too. When you go out for an Indian meal in Britain, you normally start with crispy poppadoms and different kinds of dipping sauces. Then you have your main curry with rice.

It isn’t so normal to have dessert, but if you ask the waiter he will probably have some ice cream or special Indian sweets!

A lot of dishes you get in Indian restaurants in Britain are a bit different from original Indian food because they are sweeter and milder. Traditionally, Indians use a lot of different spices, some of which are really hot, like chillies.

One very hot dish is curry vindaloo. Eating it can be a best of courage for some people. Vindaloo became very popular in Britain during the World Cup in 1998. There was even a famous football chant called “Vindaloo” because football fans ate lots of vindaloo with beer after the football matches. For people who hate spicy food, there is chicken korma, which is much milder and very creamy.

British people also eat many other types of Indian food, for example dal (lentil soup), naan bread (typical Indian bread) and chicken tikka masala. It is often just called CTM. There is a story that the British wanted some sauce with their chicken tikka. So the Indian cooks added masala, a sauce that has got yoghurt, coconut cream and many different spices in it. So CTM is probably the first Indian dish that started to make Indian food popular in Britain. But since then, the choice of Indian dishes has got much bigger!

What other types of Indian food do British people like?

1. Why can you find a lot of Indian restaurants in Britain?
2. What is Indian curry?
3. What spices are used?
4. Which curry dish is very hot?
5. What other types of Indian food do British people like?

1. A lot of different spices are used.
2. A curry with vegetables or meat in a special sauce.
3. Spices like chillies.
4. Curry vindaloo.
5. Daal (lentil soup), naan bread and chicken tikka masala.

The ‘Curry Mile’: a long street with hundreds of Indian restaurants.

Find answers to these questions. Take notes.

1. Why can you find a lot of Indian restaurants in Britain?
2. What is special about CTM?
3. What is different between the Indian food in Britain and in India?
4. What is special about vindaloo?

1. A lot of different spices are used.
2. A curry with vegetables or meat in a special sauce.
3. The Indian curries are sweeter and milder.
4. Vindaloo is a very hot dish.

Role play

Work with a partner. Do the role play.

1. Schlage deinem Partner/deine Partnerin vor, essen zu gehen.
2. Sage, dass das eine gute Idee ist.
3. Frage, was dein Partner/deine Partnerin gerne isst.
4. Sage, was du gerne isst. (z.B. Chinesisch, Indisch, Burger)
5. Sage, dass du lieber etwas anderes essen möchtest. (z.B. Chinesisch, Indisch, Burger)
6. Frage, was dein Partner/deine Partnerin gerne essen würde.
7. Beantworte die Frage.
8. Sage, dass du das auch gut findest. Frage, wo ihr hingehen sollt.
9. Beantworte die Frage.
10. Sage, dass das gut klingt.

Favourite places

a) Listen to the people talking about their favourite places to eat.

Then match the sentence halves.

1. Anand likes
2. Anand’s favourite restaurant
3. Nikki normally goes
4. Nikki really likes
5. Nikki’s favourite restaurant
6. Nikki normally eats
7. Beth loves eating
8. Beth likes
9. Beth is happy when
10. Chris likes eating
11. Chris thinks the food there is
12. The best bit for Chris is

A. burgers.
B. there on Friday evenings.
C. cheap and healthy.
D. eating with his friends.
E. in the school cafeteria.
F. pizza.
G. Indian food.
H. she sits on her sofa, eats pizza and watches a film.
I. is called American burger bar.
J. is on his street.
K. in her living room.
L. a fish burger.

b) What about YOU? What’s your favourite place to eat? Talk about it with a partner.