

WORD BANK 2

What are these words in your language?

CHICKENS



cage (n)



cockerel (n)



lay an egg (v)



peck (v)

average (n/adj)

The **average** length of a chicken's egg is 57 mm, but many are longer or shorter than this.

boil (v)

You have to **boil** some water before you can make a cup of tea.

VOCABULARY REVIEW

- Match each definition with a word from Word Banks 1 and 2.
 - a male chicken
 - a person whose job is cooking
 - a food that is needed to make a recipe
 - a home for a pet bird, usually made of metal
 - writing or art that is usually drawn on walls outside
 - a pink meat that comes from pigs
 - something that is made of fruit and is put on toast
- Complete the sentences with words from Word Banks 1 and 2.
 - Heat the water until it starts to _____.
 - That meat isn't very healthy. Look at all the white _____ on it.
 - The apples are very _____. They were still on the tree an hour ago.
 - All birds _____ eggs.
 - The _____ in town sells very nice sausages.
 - The chickens _____ the ground to look for food.
 - He had a _____, but luckily it didn't kill him.
- Answer the questions with the correct word.
 - Which of these is not part of Goldie's favourite breakfast?
eggs cereal sausages bacon
 - Which word describes Goldie's favourite breakfast?
average healthy traditional successful

CHAPTER 2

Excellent eggs!

Goldie loves bacon, but he doesn't like eating it without eggs. He isn't alone! People in Britain eat an average of 182 eggs a year, either as part of a meal or as an ingredient in other food.

After spending a day with some free-range pigs, Goldie decides to visit some chickens. He knows even less about chickens than he knew about pigs. He hopes that Chris Ford at Redhouse Farm will be able to teach him about them.

At the farm, Goldie's first lesson is that chickens smell when there are a lot of them together. 'Wow! That smell is strong!' he says.

Chris and Goldie go into a room full of chickens. 'So, do all of these chickens lay eggs?' Goldie asks.



'Yes,' answers Chris. 'We have about 15,100 eggs a day.'

The chickens are interested in Goldie. They come up close and start pecking his shoes. 'They're eating me!' he laughs.

Goldie asks Chris about the colour of the eggs. 'There are white eggs and brown eggs. Where do the white eggs come from? Are they from a special kind of chicken?'

Chris explains that white chickens usually lay white eggs, and brown chickens usually lay brown eggs. The colour of an egg doesn't make a difference to its taste, but in different countries, shops usually sell a lot more of one colour than the other. In the USA, Egypt and Japan, for example, shops mostly sell white eggs. In Poland, Brazil and the UK, eggs are usually brown. And there are other colours too: some types of chicken produce brown and red eggs, green eggs, or blue eggs.

There are four thousand chickens in the room with Goldie. They are free range, so they are allowed to go outside. Most of the time, however, they stay inside. Only half of Britain's chickens are free range. The other half live in very small cages.

Chris' chickens are very noisy, but when Goldie shouts they suddenly go quiet.

'You frightened them,' explains Chris.

It isn't long before they are noisy again. 'It's like I'm the DJ and they're my noisiest crowd,' says Goldie. Then he shouts, 'SHUT UP!'

They are suddenly silent again.

Goldie sees a metal box with some eggs in it. 'This is what I came for!' he says.

He picks up an egg. 'If I leave this egg, will it become a baby chicken?' he asks.

'No, because there's no cockerel with the chickens,' explains Chris. 'You need a cockerel to make a baby.'

* Conversational Language. See page 48.

HOW TO KEEP CHICKENS

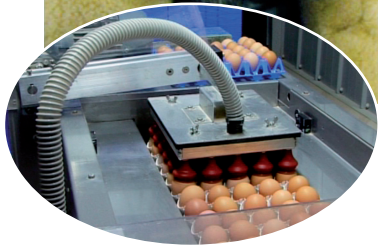
More and more families in Britain today are keeping chickens, even if they live in cities. The birds have a happy, healthy life and the eggs are fresher than any in the shops. Chickens are friendly too, and make great pets.

You need ...

- 🥚 **At least three chickens.** They are not happy on their own, and they can be slow to make new friends. You don't need a cockerel. Cockerels are very noisy early in the morning and in many places it's against the law to have one in your garden.
- 🥚 **An outside space.** The chickens will want to look for worms and insects to eat. If you have a fence, it should be at least two metres high, so that foxes can't get in.
- 🥚 **A bowl of water and some chicken food.** As well as special food from the shops, chickens can eat grass and some of your uneaten food: vegetables, fruit, and cooked potato skins.
- 🥚 **A big, flat bowl full of dry earth.** Instead of washing in water, chickens throw earth over themselves to get clean. This kills the little insects that like to live on their bodies.



What do these words mean?
You can use a dictionary.
*fence fox insect
perch worm*



Chris and Goldie go into a different room. It's like a factory, with machines to check the size of the eggs and put

them into the correct egg boxes. Then they are ready for lorries to take them to the shops.

'When will these eggs get to the supermarket?' asks Goldie.

'In four days,' Chris replies.

'Four days! Then they're fresh on your table for egg and soldiers!*' smiles Goldie.

Chris doesn't send all of his eggs to the supermarket. Some of them are a different colour or size from the others. Supermarket shoppers don't want to buy eggs like that, so he sells them by the side of the road instead. Chris offers some of these 'side of the road' eggs to Goldie.

'The bad eggs,' laughs Goldie. 'They're a bit like me. No one wanted me when I was a small egg!'

Goldie takes the eggs from Chris. 'A side of the road egg is fine for me!' he says.



Now watch Clip 4 and answer the questions on pages 22–23.

* Egg and soldiers means a meal of soft, boiled eggs and long, thin pieces of toast.

 CLIP 4**1 Watch the clip. Are these sentences true or false?**

- | | True | False |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) The chicken house has a strong smell. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) The farm produces more than 15,000 eggs a day. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) All chicken eggs are the same colour. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) The eggs on the farm can become baby chickens. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) The eggs will be in the shops tomorrow. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Goldie wants to take some eggs with him. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2 Watch the clip again. Who said these sentences, Goldie (G) or Chris (C)?

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| a) 'Can you smell that? I think we're getting close.' | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) 'You don't get black eggs.' | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) 'You scared them.' | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) 'It's my loudest crowd.' | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) 'This one has a bit of extra shell.' | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f) 'No one wanted me when I was a small egg.' | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3 Tick the correct answers.

- a) What does Goldie learn about the colour of chickens' eggs?
- i) Brown chickens only produce brown eggs.
 - ii) Brown chickens produce both white eggs and brown eggs.
- b) What happened when Goldie shouted at the chickens?
- i) They became noisier.
 - ii) They stopped making a noise.
- c) What is needed if you want baby chickens from eggs?
- i) You need a cockerel.
 - ii) You need to keep free-range chickens.
- d) Why are some of Chris' eggs sold on the side of the road?
- i) Because some eggs are broken.
 - ii) Because most people want eggs which all look the same.
- e) Why does Goldie think he's like the 'side of the road' eggs?
- i) Because no one wanted him when he was a boy.
 - ii) Because he's bigger than most people.

4 Answer the questions.

- a) What colour eggs are sold in shops in your country?
- b) How many eggs do you eat every week?
- c) Do many people in your country keep chickens in their garden? Do they keep any other animals that produce food?
- d) Do you think Chris' free-range chickens have a good life? What about the chickens that live in small cages?
- e) Do you think it's important to be kind to farm animals? Why / Why not?