

STORY

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# The Cheddar Cheese Sandwich

**Storyland**  
by Amigos Ingleses



### The Cheddar Cheese Sandwich



Now, if you've ever been to the UK before, you'll know there are some differences compared to Spain but probably not enough to create any kind of **culture shock**. I mean, it's not exactly the same as going trekking up The Inca Trail or canoeing through the Amazon. During Isabel's first visit to the UK, however, she discovered quite a few things which have left a permanent impression on her.

She was on a one-month English immersion program, you see, and had **ended up** staying with a couple in Scotland. Isabel admits that she was a little bit worried at the time because she'd heard some strange legends about the Brits. They were very dirty, **for instance**, didn't shower and only had a bath once a week.

And by the way, before we go any further, I'd just like to confirm that this isn't true. If it were, then we definitely wouldn't have got married. Every single wedding guest would have needed to wear **a peg** on their nose, and that would have been far too expensive.

Anyway, back to the story. Isabel had also heard a few stereotypes about Scotland, of course -- **bagpipes, kilts, haggis**, – but at first all of her assumptions were **blown away**.



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The couple she was staying with picked her up at the airport, and at first, seemed absolutely **delightful**. Jim and Barbara were in their 70s and lived in a lovely five-bedroom house, **packed with** English students.

They appeared to be very nice, and everything seemed fine. In fact, at first, it was Isabel who **came across** as the “**weird**” one, after trying to get into the driver’s seat of their car when they picked her up.

She forgot the **steering wheel** is on the right-hand side in British cars, you see, but everybody **had a good laugh** about it, and that was that.

It soon became clear, however, that Jim and Barbara weren’t the most dedicated of host families. They did their best to ignore the students, and having any kind of conversation with them was completely out of the question.

Jim and Barbara’s whole existence seemed to **revolve around** watching TV and eating snacks, which they’d happily do **all day long**. In fact, they’d only pause at lunch and dinner time, to prepare the cheapest, **nastiest** food possible for their students.



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For Isabel, the worst thing was the lunch. Every single day, she'd be given the same thing: a sandwich with some kind of orange cheese in it. Just that, butter and nothing else.

This bizarre “orange cheese” was a new experience for Isabel and not one she was keen to repeat every single day of the month. She eventually found out that the cheese was known as “cheddar” (one of the most popular cheeses in the UK) but this knowledge didn't make the sandwich any more **pleasant** for someone who'd **grown up** with a nice Mediterranean diet.

When it came to dinner time, things were just as bad. Everything seemed to be beige or brown, so much so that Isabel was forced to cover it in ketchup ... not only to add a bit of colour but also some taste. But it was during dinner time, however, that Isabel became inspired, and a way out of her “orange cheese” dilemma presented itself.

There was an Italian student staying there as well, who hated the food just as much as Isabel, but had a system in place to deal with it. She'd **come down to dinner** every night at 6pm, with a plastic bag hidden in her pocket, and as soon as Barbara **turned around**, she'd **leap into action**.



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**Quick as a flash**, the Italian girl would **scrape** every last bit of food into the bag and then hide it under the table. Isabel wasn't sure what she did with the food after she took it back upstairs to her room, but the idea itself was **pure genius**.

Isabel took every opportunity she could to get out of Jim and Barbara's house over that long month. She went on a lot of organised excursions and spent a lot of time studying with her new friends. That is why, on her final night in Edinburgh, she stayed at a friend's house. Annoyingly, she also **overslept** because she didn't have her very specific "alarm clock" to help her wake up.

You see, Isabel's mother would phone every single morning at 8 am, at which point Barbara would scream up the stairs: "**Wakey-wakey**, Isabel! Your mum's on the phone!" And this, of course, had the same effect as about five or six strong espressos.

That morning, however, she didn't wake up and was in serious danger of missing her flight back home. She called Jim and Barbara, who very kindly agreed to go up to her room, collect her luggage, and meet her at the school with it.



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There was just one thing she'd forgotten about. Isabel had not only been inspired by the Italian student and her plastic bag but had been using the same technique herself for a month.

And her own plastic bag, which contained all of the orange cheese sandwiches from the previous week, was in her room waiting to be thrown away. Or discovered ... by anyone who happened to walk in. Like Jim and Barbara, **for instance**.

When they met Isabel at the school with her **luggage**, it was obvious they'd discovered the bag. They had clearly put two and two together and now knew exactly what had been going on. Isabel could tell by their very forced "Goodbye". Isabel felt so **embarrassed** that she could **barely look them in the eye**.

Since that experience all those years ago, Isabel has always hated orange cheese. In fact, she can't even walk down the cheese aisle in the supermarket without feeling **panicky**.

Anyway, please don't let this story **put you off** British cheese! I promise you you'll love it!



### VOCABULARY

**culture shock** – un choque cultural

**to end up** – terminar haciendo algo

**peg** – una pinza

**bagpipe** – una gaita

**kilt** – falda escocesa

**haggis** – una morcilla escocesa

**to blow away** – disiparse, llevarse el viento / deslumbrar a alguien

**delightful** – encantador/a

**packed with** – lleno de

**to come across as** – dar la impresión de / parecer

**weird** – raro/a

**steering wheel** – un volante

**to have a good laugh** – reírse mucho, echarse unas buenas risas

**to revolve around** – girar en torno a

**all day long** – todo el santo día

**nasty** – asqueroso/a

**pleasant** – agradable

**to grow up** – crecer

**to come down to dinner** – bajar a comer

**to turn around** – darse la vuelta



### VOCABULARY

**to leap into action** – actuar inmediatamente

**quick as a flash** – rápido como un rayo

**to scrape** – apurar

**pure genius idea** – una idea brillante

**to oversleep** – quedarse dormido/a

**Wakey-wakey!** – ¡despierta!

**for instance** – por ejemplo

**luggage** – equipaje

**to feel embarrassed** – sentirse avergonzado/a

**to look sb in the eye** – mirar a alguien a los ojos

**panicky** – muy nervioso/a

**to put sb off sth** – quitarle a alguien las ganas de algo





### TASK 1 - CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER

1. What is Phillip's opinion about Spain and the UK?
  - a) There aren't too many differences between them.
  - b) The culture is extremely different.
  - c) Spain is as different to the UK as the Amazon.
  
2. Why was Isabel worried about going to the UK?
  - a) Because she had heard the streets were dirty.
  - b) Because she had heard the food was terrible.
  - c) Because she had heard that the British didn't wash very much.
  
3. Which of these phrases doesn't describe Jim and Barbara?
  - a) They didn't talk to their students much.
  - b) They watched TV most of the day.
  - c) Their food tasted delicious.
  
4. What did the Italian student do with the food?
  - a) She took it up to her room to eat it.
  - b) She put it down the toilet.
  - c) Isabel didn't know what she did with it.
  
5. Why did Isabel have a difficult situation at the airport?
  - a) Because Jim and Barbara asked her why she had a bag of cheese sandwiches in her room.
  - b) Because they weren't very friendly.
  - c) Because they had found two bags of sandwiches.



### TASK 2 - FILL IN THE GAPS

1. At first I absolutely hated British cheese, but I \_\_\_\_\_ up loving it!

- a) ended                                      b) closed                                      c) finally

2. I came to his house intending to explain how angry I was, but he was so nice to me that all my excuses were \_\_\_\_\_ away.

- a) moved                                      b) taken                                      c) blown

3. You really couldn't meet a nicer person, everything about her was absolutely \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) brightful                                      b) delightful                                      c) charming

4. He came \_\_\_\_\_ as such a lovely person, but the reality was totally different.

- a) across                                      b) about                                      c) around

5. He was a very unkind teacher and he didn't like us; in fact, he said some really \_\_\_\_\_ things to us.

- a) pleasant                                      b) flattering                                      c) nasty



### TASK 2 - FILL IN THE GAPS

6. Even though I would now call myself a Londoner, I \_\_\_\_\_ up in Wales and still travel there from time to time.

- a) brought                      b) learned                      c) grew

7. My daughters have the bad habit of leaving their plates in the kitchen without \_\_\_\_\_ the food into the rubbish bin.

- a) scraping                      b) filling                      c) taking

8. I had 5 alarm clocks set because I had a very important meeting the following day and I didn't want to \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) sleepover                      b) oversleep                      c) pastsleep

9. My boss knew about my secret and when I went to see him the next day I couldn't look him \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) in the face                      b) in the eye                      c) on the face

10. The last time I went to that restaurant there were so many people there and it was so hot and so it really \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) put me against                      b) felt me off                      c) put me off



### TASK 1 (COMPREHENSION)

1. a) There aren't too many differences between them.
2. c) Because she heard that the British didn't wash much.
3. c) Their food tasted good.
4. c) Isabel didn't know what she did with it.
5. b) Because Jim and Barbara weren't very friendly.

### TASK 2 (GAP FILL)

1. a) ended
2. c) blown
3. b) delightful
4. a) across
5. c) nasty
6. c) grew
7. a) scraping
8. b) oversleep
9. b) in the eye
10. c) put me off



### DICTATION EXERCISE

1. She discovered quite a few things which left a permanent impression on her.
2. At first, all of her assumptions were blown away.
3. Having a conversation with them was completely out of the question.
4. I wasn't keen on the bizarre "orange cheese" sandwiches.
5. As soon as Barbara turned around, the Italian student would leap into action.
6. The Italian girl would scrape every last bit of the food into the bag.
7. The idea was pure genius.
8. She was in serious danger of missing her flight back home.
9. It was obvious they'd discovered the bag full of sandwiches.
10. Isabel could barely look them in the eye.

HOW DID YOU DO?

I GOT THIS



OKAY



OUCH

