**Listening comprehension First year October 2016**

**PRESENTER:** In an article taken from the ‘Telegraph’ newspaper, which was then published on the Internet, cookery journalist Nigel Slater looks at how immigrant communities have dramatically influenced British eating habits. // Today he is here in the studio to talk to us. Morning, Nigel! Over to you!

**NIGEL:** Good morning, everyone! Yes, I can’t think of any other place that welcomes foreign food with more enthusiasm than Britain. Our own national cooking is good and getting better, but the British seem to have an insatiable appetite for the food of **other** countries. //

Just walk along our High Streets and you’ll find all kinds of non-British food and ingredients, from Japanese sushi to Mexican tacos, from pizza and pasta to Korean noodles. //

While some of this food comes from big chain restaurants, mostly it’s the product of small restaurants and food shops managed by first-or-second generation immigrant families. //

The same choice of foods can’t be found, for example, in Naples, Stockholm or Bordeaux. In these cities, there’s very little food on offer that isn’t local. Each city may offer a particular culinary flavour, but there’s **nothing** like the international choice available in Britain. //

This enthusiasm for foreign flavours doesn’t mean our **own** food is not good enough to retain our interest. On the contrary, it’s just that we’re a nation of adventurous eaters. Our appetites and plates are open to everything!

We also try out foreign recipes at home, and while our home-cooked Thai or Indian curries may not be authentic, we definitely enjoy experimenting! As any cook will know, authenticity varies from place to place. Every Italian has a different way of making carbonara, just as every British cook’s recipe for Yorkshire pudding or apple pie is different from the next. //

I have to say though that I’m not very interested in cooking in kitchens that don’t include foreign ingredients. Imagine having no access to lemons, spices, or vanilla. Imagine no oranges, chocolate, coffee or tea! And what would the British do, I ask, without their many daily cups of tea? //

I spent the best part of last year making a TV series that explores the ways in which our ideas concerning food have been enriched by foreign foods. The series is not only about food, but about the different nationalities that brought it into Britain. I’ve tried to bring very diverse groups together round the table, tasting each other’s dishes and sharing the stories behind them. I want to show that food can unite us in more ways than one.

Hope you enjoy the programme!