

# BBC Learning English

## 6 Minute English

### *Sausage wars*



NB: This is not a word for word transcript

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- Rob:** Hello and welcome to 6 Minute English from BBC Learning English. I'm Rob.
- Rosie:** And I'm Rosie.
- Rob:** Today we're talking about the **humble** sausage, or to use the English slang, *bangers*. So are you a fan of sausages Rosie?
- Rosie:** Yes I am, I love sausages Rob.
- Rob:** Me too, I love them and so do locals and visitors to the capital of the Czech Republic, Prague.
- Rosie:** Yes, but there's a bit of a sausage war going on there.
- Rob:** Yes that's what we'll be talking about soon. But Rosie we always like to kick off the programme with a question and today is no exception. Are you ready?
- Rosie:** I think I am ready Rob.
- Rob:** Approximately, what is the length of the longest sausage ever made? Is it:
- a) 59 metres
  - b) 5.9 kilometres
  - c) 59 kilometres
- Rosie:** That's a difficult one. I have no idea so I'm going to guess. I'm going to say b, 5.9 kilometres.
- Rob:** Well we'll find out the answer at the end of the programme. But back to our story about this possible bad news for sausage lovers in Prague. In the city, this cheap

and greasy snack has another name – **klobasa** – and they are sold at klobasa stands in the main, Wenceslas Square.

**Rosie:** For almost a century, people who are hungry or **hung-over** have been consuming these klobasas day and night but not for much longer.

**Rob:** That's right. Wenceslas Square is undergoing a gradual process of **gentrification**, which means they're smartening it up. The BBC's Rob Cameron can tell us more. Listen out for his description of the klobasa cooking and also how they make people feel:

***Rob Cameron, BBC***

Call them klobasa, kielbasa, bratwurst, bockwurst or simply sausages - there's no escaping them as you walk down Prague's main thoroughfare. They sit, sizzling, in metal trays - delicious to look at, especially at 3am - but always consumed with a sense of guilt and gastric foreboding. For locals and visitors alike, consuming a foot-long klobasa is part of the Prague experience.

**Rosie:** Interesting! I didn't realise there were so many names for sausages; klobasa, kielbasa, bratwurst, bockwurst, and he described them as sizzling in metal trays.

**Rob:** Sizzling. The word just sounds like sausages cooking. They look delicious at three o'clock in the morning, I wonder why?! But people eat them, or consume them, with a sense of guilt, they know they shouldn't eat them but they do!

**Rosie:** Yes, and some people worry about the affect on their stomachs, or what the reporter called '**gastric foreboding**'. But despite that, it's part of the Prague experience!

**Rob:** Indeed. The Mayor of Prague's First District says the klobasa stands are part of the city's cultural heritage. They are as crucial to Prague as the hot dog is to New York.

**Rosie:** So they are very important. But maybe not for much longer as this main street, or **thoroughfare**, is going to have a **makeover**. That means they want to improve or change the appearance of the area.

**Rob:** Let's hear more of the report from Rob Cameron about what the City Council is planning to do. Listen out for the word he uses to mean birds:

***Rob Cameron, BBC***

Architects want to pedestrianise and **gentrify** the area, removing the dozen or so old sausage stalls with their greasy pavements and overflowing bins that attract both human and **avian scavengers**. In their place will be six **salubrious** establishments, offering not just sausages but cut flowers and croissants, more in line with a modern European **metropolis**. The humble klobasa, it seems, no longer cuts the mustard.

**Rob:** So the City Council's plans include allowing people to walk around freely and not allowing any vehicles. In other words, **pedestrianise** the area. They are going to remove the overflowing bins because they attract human and **avian scavengers**.

**Rosie:** So these are humans and birds who hunt through the bins looking for old bits of food to eat, yuk! They're going to be replaced by six **salubrious** establishments, in other words, six clean, pleasant and smart shops.

**Rob:** They'll still be selling sausages but also cut flowers and croissants. It's felt this will make it more like a modern European city or metropolis.

**Rosie:** Interesting! Selling croissants and cut flowers make it a modern city! They're not the best things to eat when you are hungry or hung-over! I feel sorry for the humble klobasa.

**Rob:** Well as the report said, the klobasa no longer cuts the mustard. To 'cut the mustard' is a good expression. It means it no longer comes up to expectations. And now Rosie, it's time to see if you have cut the mustard with the answer to this week's question.

**Rosie:** This was about world-record-breaking sausages.

**Rob:** Yes. Earlier I asked you, approximately, what is the length of the longest sausage ever made? Is it:

- d) 59 metres
- e) 5.9 kilometres
- f) 59 kilometres

**Rosie:** And I said 5.9 kilometres.

**Rob:** You are wrong I'm afraid. According to the Guinness World Records, the record for the longest sausage measured 59.14 km (36.75 miles) and was made by J.J. Tranfield in Sheffield in the UK in October 2000.

**Rosie:** I wonder how many people it took to eat it?

**Rob:** Quite a few I expect but they didn't invite me. OK Rosie please could you remind us of today's words?

**Rosie:** Of course. They are:

- humble**
- klobasa**
- hung-over**
- gentrification**
- gastric foreboding**
- thoroughfare**
- makeover**
- pedestrianise**
- avian scavengers**

**salubrious**

**Rob:** Thanks very much Rosie. And that's all we've got time for today. Bye.

**Rosie:** Bye.

## Vocabulary and definitions

humble	insignificant or unimportant
klobasa	smoked sausage, served whole
hung-over	feel ill from drinking too much alcohol the night before
gentrification	changing an area to make it look more expensive and elegant
gastric foreboding	feeling that something unpleasant is going to happen with your stomach
thoroughfare	main road or street through a city
makeover	improving the appearance of a place
pedestrianise	make an area exclusively for people who are walking without any traffic
avian scavengers	birds that search for and eat leftover food scraps
salubrious	pleasant and clean

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