



THE HAMBURGER STORY

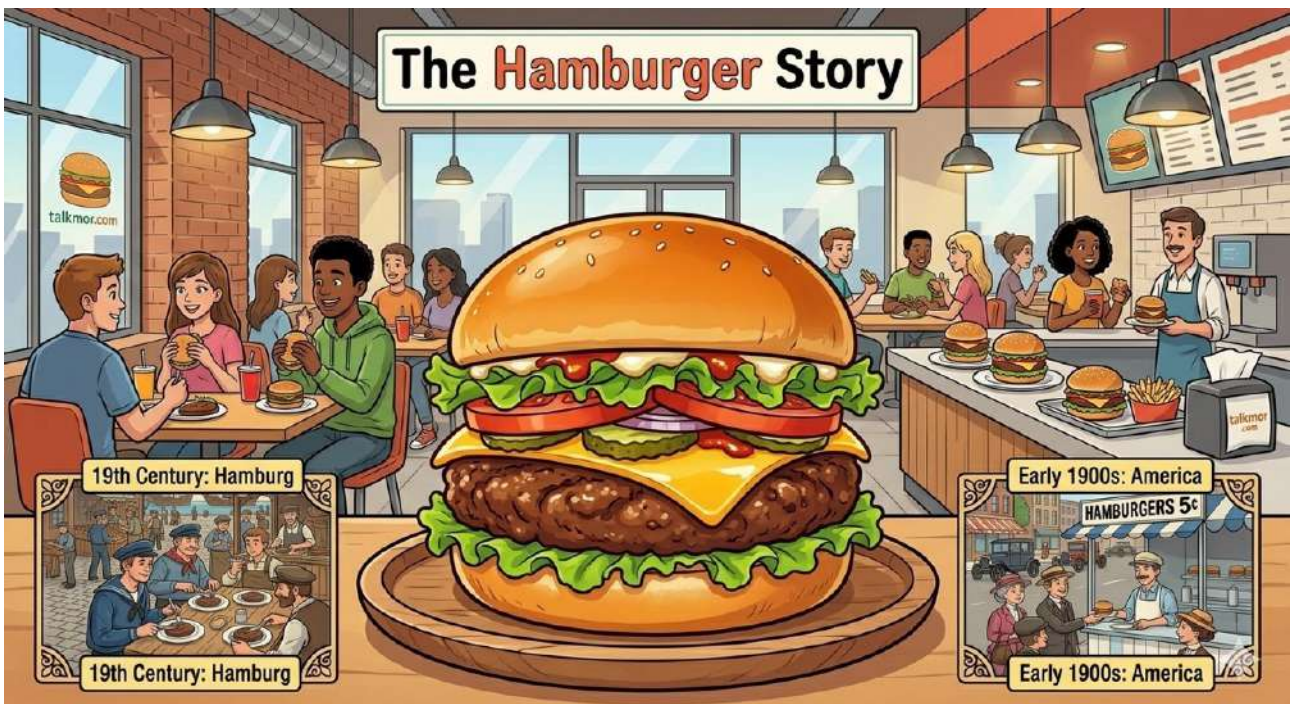
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PDF 1: Reading Passage + Comprehension

Title: The Hamburger Story – Reading & Comprehension

Level: Pre-Intermediate to Intermediate (A2–B1)

Time: 20–30 minutes



Vocabulary

Word	Meaning	Sounds like
patty	a flat, round piece of ground meat	PAT-ee
immigrant	a person who moves to another country to live	IM-mi-grunt
vendor	a person who sells things on the street	VEN-der
iconic	very famous and widely recognized	eye-KON-ik
seasoned	food with added salt, spices, or flavor	SEE-zund

Discussion Questions

1. Do you like hamburgers? What is your favorite kind?
2. What is a popular street food in your country?

Reading Passage

The Hamburger Story

Almost everyone loves hamburgers. But do you know the interesting story behind this popular food?

The hamburger gets its name from **Hamburg, Germany**. In the 19th century, sailors and workers in Hamburg ate a dish called “Hamburg steak” — a simple patty made of ground beef, seasoned and fried.

When German immigrants moved to the United States, they brought this idea with them. In the early 1900s, street vendors in America started serving the ground beef patty between two slices of bread. This made it easy to eat while walking or working. People began calling it a “hamburger.”

The modern hamburger we know today — with buns, cheese, lettuce, tomato, and pickles — became extremely popular after World War II, thanks to fast food restaurants like McDonald’s and Burger King.

Today, the hamburger is one of the most iconic American foods, enjoyed all over the world.

Comprehension Questions

A. True or False

True / False

1. The hamburger got its name from Hamburg, Germany.
2. Hamburgers were invented in McDonald’s.
3. German immigrants helped bring the idea to America.
4. The hamburger became popular only recently.

B. Multiple Choice

1. What was the original “Hamburg steak”?
 - a) A steak from Hamburg
 - b) A ground beef patty
 - c) A sandwich with vegetables
2. Why did people start putting the beef between bread?
 - a) Because it was easier to eat on the go
 - b) Because they didn’t like plates
 - c) Because bread was cheaper

C. Short Answer

1. Where does the name “hamburger” come from?
2. How did the hamburger change in America?