

Beth Newbold, winner of the junior chef competition, writes about learning to cook.

I was quite young, about five when I made my first cake, I think. And it wasn't my mum or dad who taught me. My parents didn't cook much. Mum didn't enjoy it, perhaps because she had a busy life. And dad – well – his meals were terrible! So, we usually ate things like burgers or pasta and boiled vegetables or chips from the shop!

I only ate well when we went to my gran's. She was a great cook and I loved the smell of her kitchen. She made fresh cakes and bread and biscuits. Her soups were amazing too. She showed me how to bake cakes. I was short at that time and I remember I had to stand on a chair to work on her table!

Making my first cake was really exciting. I mixed it with my gran's 'magic' spoon! It tasted very good to me because I cooked it (with a little help from gran). I think it was probably horrible, but gran said it was excellent! Then I regularly helped with the meals at gran's. I watched her carefully and she gave me a lot of her secrets about cooking. She never used recipe books!

Then gran found an advertisement for the TV competition in a magazine at her hairdresser's and she sent them my name! She didn't even tell my mum. When I heard, I was really angry. I get nervous about competitions because I don't like losing! But gran told me I was a great cook and she was proud of me. So, I took part in the competition. I couldn't believe it when I won a course of cooking lessons with a top chef!

Task 2

Choose the correct answer (A, B or C).

- 31 What does Beth say about her dad?
- A He often went to restaurants.
 - B he cooked badly.
 - C He was always busy.
- 32 What does Beth remember about the kitchen table?
- A She had a problem reaching it.
 - B She sat there to watch her grandmother cook.
 - C She did her homework on it.
- 33 Beth now thinks her first cake was
- A excellent
 - B worse than she thought at the time
 - C made by her gran
- 34 Who wrote in to the competition?
- A Beth.
 - B Beth's mum.
 - C Beth's gran.
- 35 Why was Beth angry about the competition at first?
- A She thought she was a bad cook.
 - B Her gran didn't tell her mother about it.
 - C She thought she might not win.

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Total:	50
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