

**Task: Read the review & try to explain the idioms in bold.**

In this week's guide to eating out in the city, Joh Boyd reviews the hottest new restaurant in town:

### The Stadium

Now, here's <sup>1</sup>**food for thought** – a restaurant-cum-sports museum. "It'll never work", I thought to myself as I made my way to ex-rugby international Ray Plum's new restaurant to join a group of friends for a birthday dinner. However, as soon as I stepped through the door into the delicious food smells, which certainly <sup>2</sup>**whetted my appetite**, & the fantastic décor, which consisted entirely of sports memorabilia from floor to ceiling. I <sup>3</sup>**was at a loss for words!**

We were ushered to our table by a friendly waiter who left us to look at the menu. The dish descriptions <sup>4</sup>**made our mouths water**, & soon we were enjoying our meal. The chef clearly hadn't <sup>5</sup>**cut any corners**, as the ingredients were of the highest quality.

Later on in the evening, when the birthday celebrations were <sup>6</sup>**in full swing**, I managed to <sup>7</sup>**pull a few strings** to see the kitchen as I knew the manager's son. I have to say that other chefs <sup>8</sup>**cannot hold a candle** to the way in which *the Stadium's* chef runs his kitchen.

Shortly before we left, our birthday girl insisted on <sup>9</sup>**picking up the tab**. I was pleasantly surprised on taking a peek at the total, to calculate that it had only come to £12 per person.

I for one shall certainly be paying another visit to *The Stadium* just to <sup>10</sup>**feast my eyes on** the décor, the fantastic old sporting photos & memorabilia. It is certainly a place well worth visiting.

• **1- Match the items with the idioms in bold.**

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. to make somebody keen to experience/ taste more of something;</li> <li>b. to use a cheaper/easier method;</li> <li>c. at a very lively stage/point;</li> <li>d. to look or smell delicious to you;</li> <li>e. to pay for something;</li> <li>f. unable to think of anything to say;</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>g. to cause somebody to desire something, especially food;</li> <li>h. cannot be compared favorably with somebody/something;</li> <li>i. to use influence to achieve something;</li> <li>j. something to think about</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

• **2- Fill in the gaps with phrases from the list:**

**A- at a loss for words; B- cut corners; C- picking up the tab; D- hold a candle to; E- whet my appetite**

- 1) Paul ..... when building his new house & now he is having trouble with it.
- 2) The new managing director can't ..... his predecessor.
- 3) Mary was ..... when her boss asked her if she'd like to be promoted.
- 4) I've only read the back of the book, but it was enough to .....
- 5) Vanessa's parents are ..... for her trip to Europe next summer.

• **3- Fill in the gaps with phrases from the list:**

**A-food for thought; B- feast your eyes on; C- make your mouth water; D- pull a few strings; E- in full swing**

**Helen:** So how was Angela's wedding?

**Fiona:** Brilliant. Her dress was something to <sup>1</sup>.....!

**Helen:** And the reception?

**Fiona:** It was quite impressive. Fortunately, Tony's dad knows the manager of *The Grand*, so he was able to <sup>2</sup>..... & arrange to hold the reception there for half the normal price. You know, the menu alone was enough to <sup>3</sup>.....! Unfortunately, I had to leave while the party was still <sup>4</sup>..... as I had to get up early for work the next morning – but it's certainly given me <sup>5</sup>..... for my own wedding!