

4

Sweet rituals

Listening

- 1  You will hear three different extracts. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear. There are two questions for each extract.

Extract One

You hear a man talking about a harvest festival in China.

- What is important to the man when eating a watermelon?
 - its outward appearance
 - its weight
 - its flesh
- What impressed the man most about the festival?
 - the trade opportunities
 - the educational dimension
 - the cultural side

Extract Two

You hear part of an interview in which a journalist is talking about cookery books.

- What is the journalist's main criticism of large cookbooks?
 - The amount of information is slight.
 - The recipes often prove to be unreliable.
 - The quality of the photography is patchy.
- What is unique about William Verrall's book, according to the journalist?
 - the ingredients it uses
 - its focus on the negative
 - the strength of its humour

Extract Three

You hear a woman talking about her recent experience at a top-class restaurant.

- What did she admire for its presentation?
 - the spicy steak
 - the barbecued fish
 - the vegetarian option
- What aspect of the restaurant was the woman somewhat disappointed with?
 - the décor
 - the furniture
 - the atmosphere



- 2 The recordings contain the phrasal verbs in 1–8 below. Match them to their meanings a–h.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 engage with | <i>there are things for tourists to engage with too</i> |
| 2 thumb through | <i>you've also been thumbing through some of the titles in a new series</i> |
| 3 serve up | <i>the typical glossy publishing we've been served up with for the last couple of decades</i> |
| 4 open up | <i>these books open up new vistas</i> |
| 5 come up with | <i>but none comes up with observations like Verrall's</i> |
| 6 hanker after | <i>They ... seemed to hanker after my blackened cod</i> |
| 7 do out in | <i>the room, which was done out in subtle shades of blue and cream</i> |
| 8 live up to | <i>the food lived up to our expectations</i> |
-
- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| a | skim read a lot of text |
| b | be as good as |
| c | decorate in a certain way |
| d | show interest in |
| e | create or reveal |
| f | present to the public |
| g | long for |
| h | think of or suggest |

- 3 Extract Three features adjectives describing flavour – *appetising*, and texture – *tender*. Which of the adjectives below describe flavour and which describe texture? Write *F* (flavour) or *T* (texture). Some adjectives can describe both. Use a dictionary to help you. The first one is done for you.

bland	F	grainy	mushy	sharp
creamy		insipid	overripe	stale
delectable		mild	palatable	tasteless
fibrous		moist	pulpy	watery

Grammar

- 4 Complete this extract from the introduction to a book by Indian cookery writer Madhur Jaffrey, using an appropriate form of the verbs in brackets. Be careful to use a passive, *would / used to* or a modal where necessary. There may be more than one correct answer.

I (0) have always loved (always love) to eat well. My mother once (1) (inform) me that my passion (2) (date back) to the hour of my birth when my grandmother (3) (write) the sacred syllable 'Om' on my tongue with a finger dipped in fresh honey. I (4) (apparently observe) smacking my lips rather loudly.

Starting from that time, food – good food – (5) (just appear) miraculously from somewhere at the back of our house in Delhi. It (6) (precede) by the most tantalising odours and the sounds of crockery and cutlery on the move. Soon we (7) (all sit) around the dinner table, engrossed in eating monsoon mushrooms cooked with coriander and turmeric, fish that my brothers (8) (just catch) in the Jamuna River and cubes of lamb smothered in a yoghurt sauce.

Indian food (9) (be) far more varied than the menus of Indian restaurants (10) (suggest). One of my fondest memories of school in Delhi (11) (be) of the lunches that we (12) (all bring) from our homes, ensconced in multi-tiered lunchboxes. My stainless steel lunchbox (13) (dangle) from the handle of my bicycle as I (14) (ride) at great speed to school every morning, my ribboned pigtailed fluttering behind me. When the lunch bell finally (15) (set) us free, my friends and I (16) (assemble) under a shady tree if it (17) (be) summer or on a sunny verandah if it (18) (be) winter. My mouth (19) (begin) to water even before we (20) (open up) our lunchboxes. Eating (21) (always fill) us with a sense of adventure and discovery as we (22) (can) not always anticipate what the others (23) (bring).

Vocabulary

- 5 All the verbs in the box are used in collocations in the context of food. Choose one for each sentence below, changing the form of the verb where necessary.

bolt	chew	devour	dine
munch	polish off		

- a In awe, we watched as the snake the bird whole.
- b The man gave his dog a bone to on.
- c Mia was sitting there, happily on an apple from her lunch box.
- d 'Don't your food or you'll get indigestion,' warned Sam's granny.
- e In the restaurant by the lake, we like kings, as the food was so delicious and reasonably priced.
- f The young man was so ravenous he ate a huge chicken dinner and then a large apple pie.
- 6 Complete these compound adjectives with a word that fits. There may be more than one correct answer. Use your dictionary to help you.

EXAMPLE: ice-cold water

- a a thirst-..... drink
- b a mouth-..... smell
- c a fast-..... outlet
- d free-..... eggs
- e low-..... yoghurt
- f fresh-..... bread
- g stir-..... vegetables
- h wafer-..... slices
- i sun-..... tomatoes
- j soft-..... chocolates
- k full-..... wine
- l home-..... food

Use of English

- 7 Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Tasteless tomatoes

The average supermarket tomato is a depressing specimen:

perfectly round, uniformly red, full of water, and almost

(0) without exception, utterly devoid (1)

taste. In one consumer survey after (2), these

mass-produced fruits rate among the (3)

disappointing contents of our shopping bags. Supermarkets

care about four things: size, weight, sameness and colour;

(4) taste. They consider flavour an

irrelevance. But a properly grown, raw fruit, served

(5) nature intended – and what I

(6) by that is fresh off a vine and preferably

still warm from the sun – is one of life's great pleasures. It

should explode (7) impact with your mouth

and be eatable only by slurping! It should be

(8) fragile as to be impossible to handle

without causing damage. Herein lies the problem for a

commercial producer. To arrive on a supermarket shelf, a

tomato must survive roughly a week of picking, packing and

shipping. Unsurprising, then, that the supermarket version is

not the real thing.



- 8 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and eight words, including the word given.

EXAMPLE:

0 Having bad table manners is the most annoying thing!

nothing

There's nothing more annoying than people with bad table manners.

1 The Portuguese probably introduced chilli peppers to Asia.

thought

Chilli peppers
to Asia by the Portuguese.

2 People think he succeeded through hard work and determination.

put

People
hard work and determination.

3 Finnish people consume more coffee than any other Europeans.

consumption

Finland
country in Europe.

4 Everyone must have noticed the change in temperature.

failed

No one
the change in temperature.

5 The chef even revealed the secret ingredient in his winning recipe.

far

The chef went
the secret ingredient in his winning recipe.

6 The organisers went out of their way to help.

not

The organisers could
helpful.