

An eight-year-old bilingual MasterChef!

What could you cook when you were eight? How many languages could you speak well? Most children at this age might be able to make toast and put some butter and jam on it, but eight-year-old Oscar Jefferson, from England, can not only produce excellent meals but has managed to beat 6,000 other children up to

12 years old to get a place on the cooking competition *Junior MasterChef*. But he didn't appear on the British television show – he was the star of the Spanish *Junior MasterChef*!

Although Oscar comes from England, he moved to Cádiz in the south of Spain when he was six. When he arrived in Spain, he didn't speak any Spanish, but he amazed viewers of the show by speaking perfect Spanish as well as English. The producers of *Junior MasterChef* decided to call him by his surname 'Jefferson' on the show, because Oscar is a popular Spanish name and Jefferson sounded more English. During the competition he produced some excellent dishes, such as fish ceviche and prawn vol-au-vents, and he almost reached the final. But in a dramatic semi-final, he had some problems with the very traditional British dish of fish and chips.

His grandfather, Mike Jefferson, flew to Spain to cook with Oscar for the semi-final. They cooked side by side and Mike offered support to his grandson. Unfortunately, Oscar had problems cooking his fish and then by

mistake dropped the tartare sauce he was making, so that had to be left out. He started to cry and although he finally got his fish and chips on the plate, it wasn't good enough to reach the final. In the process he became famous on social media and has over 12,000 followers on Twitter.

His story didn't end there. The video of Oscar crying after his fish and chips disaster went viral on social media and, for some people, this would have been very embarrassing. But not for Oscar. The next day he cooked for Simon Manley, the British ambassador to Madrid, and famous chef Marcos Morán, the director of the Hispania restaurant in London. Then, a few days later, he appeared on British TV where he got a second chance to make fish and chips with the help of chef Phil Vickery. This time everything was perfect.

Oscar has had to respond to thousands of messages on Twitter. When Oscar was asked what he wanted to do when he grew up, he immediately said: 'Well, be a chef, obviously. If I'm not a chef, I would probably like to be an astronaut, to see what food they have in space and cook there.' So, are you inspired by Oscar? Would you like to appear on a cooking programme? Why not learn how to cook one dish well and start from there? Who knows how far you will go?

For questions 1–5, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

1 What does the writer say about Oscar in the first paragraph?

- A He likes all kinds of food.
- B He performed better than many other children.
- C He was on *Junior MasterChef* UK.
- D He was the youngest in the competition.

2 He was known as 'Jefferson' on the programme *Junior MasterChef*

- A so viewers would know he was English.
- B because he prefers the name Jefferson.
- C because another competitor was called Oscar.
- D so he could be more popular.

3 In the semifinal

- A his fish and chips fell on the floor.
- B his grandfather told him what to cook.
- C he burnt his fish because he was talking to his grandfather.
- D he became upset because things were going wrong.

4 What did Oscar do when he left the show?

- A He posted a video of the show.
- B He made fish and chips for a British ambassador.
- C He cooked for some important people.
- D He made perfect fish and chips on his own.

5 What will Oscar probably do in the future?

- A be an astronaut
- B be a blogger on social media
- C be a chef
- D have his own cooking programme

Read these words and phrases, then read the text and write a word or phrase that means the same in each gap.

- 1 the most popular person
- 2 surprised
- 3 a meal that is prepared and cooked in a particular way
- 4 accidentally let something fall
- 5 another opportunity
