

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 ¹**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 ²**whetted my appetite**, & the fantastic décor, which consisted entirely of sports memorabilia from floor to ceiling. I ³**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 ⁴**made our mouths water**, & soon we were enjoying our meal. The chef clearly hadn't ⁵**cut any corners**, as the ingredients were of the highest quality.

Later on in the evening, when the birthday celebrations were ⁶**in full swing**, I managed to ⁷**pull a few strings** to see the kitchen as I knew the manager's son. I have to say that other chefs ⁸**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 ⁹**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 ¹⁰**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.**

- a. to make somebody keen to experience/taste more of something;
- b. to use a cheaper/easier method;
- c. at a very lively stage/point;
- d. to look or smell delicious to you;
- e. to pay for something;
- f. unable to think of anything to say;

- g. to cause somebody to desire something, especially food;
- h. cannot be compared favorably with somebody/something;
- i. to use influence to achieve something;
- j. something to think about

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 ¹.....!

Helen: And the reception?

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