

OLLIE, DON'T EAT THAT!

When Ollie James was one, his brother had a tiny pet turtle. One day, it disappeared. Then Ollie's mum noticed a turtle's leg, hanging out of Ollie's mouth! This was the beginning of Ollie's interest in very unusual types of food. And, don't worry, the turtle was fine! Now, aged 16, Ollie's tried everything from ants to zebra. And for the last two years, he's written about them on his blog: 'Ollie, Don't Eat That!'

1

Well, once my dad brought home some giant toasted ants from a business trip to Colombia. They tasted good, like salty meat. I described them on a website and I got a lot of replies! So I started looking for other unusual foods and I set up a blog to write about them. I've tried over a hundred different things since I started my blog.

2

The strangest is the durian fruit, from South East Asia. It smells disgusting – like old fruit and rubbish! You mustn't carry them on public transport in some countries! But they taste incredible – sweet and creamy. I've also cooked with unusual ingredients. I found a recipe for an ostrich curry on the web and last week I made that. An ostrich is a bird, but its meat is dark red. I expected a strong flavour, but it isn't as meaty as lamb. I got it from an ostrich farm in England.

3

That's definitely the cheeseburger in a can. A reader sent it to me from Germany. It tasted like a very bad vegetarian burger. It looked horrible and it was. I couldn't finish it.

4

Oh, my favourite is miracle berries, from Africa. They taste bitter, but after a minute, you take them out. Then anything that's sour, tastes sweet. Lemon juice, for example, tastes like sweet lemonade!

5

Not once. I'm always careful that the food is safe. My parents check everything. They've tried some things too. They loved my ostrich curry!



1 Read the interview quickly. Match questions a–e to spaces 1–5.

- a What's the most interesting thing you've ever eaten?
- b Why did you start your website?
- c Have you ever been ill because of something you've tried?
- d And what about the most disgusting?
- e What's the best food you've tried?

2 Complete the sentences with one word in each space.

- 1 Ollie started his blog years ago.
- 2 Ollie's gave him the toasted ants.
- 3 Durian fruit doesn't smell
- 4 Some countries don't people to carry durian fruit on public transport.
- 5 Ollie thinks lamb is than ostrich.
- 6 Ollie didn't eat all of the cheeseburger in a
- 7 Miracle berries make sour things taste
- 8 Ollie has never been from the unusual foods he has eaten.

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3 Match the highlighted words from the article to the meanings.

0 ingredients

- a** food you use to cook something
- b** equipment you use to cook something

1 recipe

- a** a book about food
- b** instructions for cooking something

2 flavour

- a** how food or drink smells
- b** how food or drink tastes

3 lamb

- a** a type of meat
- b** a type of fruit

4 vegetarian

- a** not containing meat
- b** raw