



A Mealtimes in Turkey

- 1 Listen to the recording. Is there anything that Serhat says which comes as a surprise to you? Compare what he says about eating etiquette in Turkish families with eating etiquette in your family or country. Do you believe that it is important for families to eat together as he describes?
- 2 Listen to the recording again and number the photos in the order you hear them mentioned.



Clear usage: expressing strong opinions

Serhat has a strongly-held opinion that families should eat together. Note some of the expressions which he uses to emphasize this fact. Where Serhat uses non-standard English, standard English equivalents are given in brackets.

'All (of the) family should be together.'

'Especially kids doesn't start (don't start or shouldn't start) (a) meal without their mums and dads.'

'If they finish early, no-one leaves the table.' (no-one should leave the table)

'They gonna sit and they gonna eat.' (They should sit and they should eat)

Serhat says 'there is sea basses and anchovies'.

Standard English: *there are sea bass and anchovies.*

'When they're in table the Turkish people love the speaking'

Standard English: *When they are sitting at the table, Turkish people love to talk.*

3

Answer the true/false questions from your memory of listening to the recording for the first time. Then listen again to check your answers.

	True	False
1 In traditional family meals in Turkey, mothers and fathers start eating first.		
2 When you finish eating, you can leave the table.		
3 Turkish people love to talk whilst they are eating.		
4 Serhat lives near the Black Sea.		
5 People in the Black Sea area of Turkey eat a lot of fish, except in the winter time.		
6 Rice is not very popular in Turkey.		
7 Lentil soup is frequently eaten as a starter in Turkey.		
8 Children do not have to eat soup before they can start their main course.		

Useful vocabulary and phrases: table manners

Please start.

Bon appetit!

Please help yourselves to salad.

Sorry, I'm not used to eating with a knife and fork or chopsticks.

Let me serve you some more rice.

Have you had baklava before?

Do try it.

That was a delicious meal.

4

These are Turkish words commonly used in English. Match the word with its definition.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1 Döner kebab | a a sweet dessert |
| 2 Baklava | b a cap which covers the head and neck |
| 3 a balaclava | c a long-sleeved tunic with a belt or a long flowing garment |
| 4 a kaftan | d a tent-like dwelling |
| 5 a yurt | e meat cooked on a vertical spit which is sliced and served in sandwiches or on flatbread |

**B**

Comparing French and British eating habits

1

Listen to the recording. If you have lived in the UK, do you share Philippe's opinion of English food? Are you surprised by anything he says? Note that in common with many French speakers of English, he does not always pronounce the 'h' at the beginning of words or the 's' at the end of words.

2

Listen again and give detailed answers to show you understand what he says.

- 1 What surprises Philippe about the behaviour of his work colleagues at lunch time?
- 2 In France, what would Philippe need to do if he wanted to leave the lunch table early?
- 3 What is his attitude towards people who use their mobile phones or browse the Internet during lunch?
- 4 What English food does he claim to like?
- 5 Why does he think that 'traditional' English fish and chips is not a 'dish'?
- 6 Do you tend to agree or disagree with Philippe's attitudes to mealtimes and, if you have been to the UK, his opinion of British food?

Clear usage: hedging

Hedging is when the speaker avoids committing to a particular view or opinion. Philippe does not want to be too critical in his comments. He wishes to be polite and to qualify his remarks. He says:

'I don't (wouldn't) say I don't like it, but to me it is not a dish.'

Some other phrases which speakers might use when they want to be cautious about giving an opinion:

I can't really say whether I agree or disagree

I suppose you could say that, but some would disagree

I guess it depends on what you mean by 'English food'!

3

Listen to the recording again and check your recognition of specific words and phrases by completing the gaps.

- 1 People don't wait (for) to go for lunch.
- 2 That's quite This is the sort of thing we won't do in France.
- 3 So that's and quite impolite.
- 4 I don't say that I don't like it, but It's just fish with chips.
- 5 It is cooked with, from ...