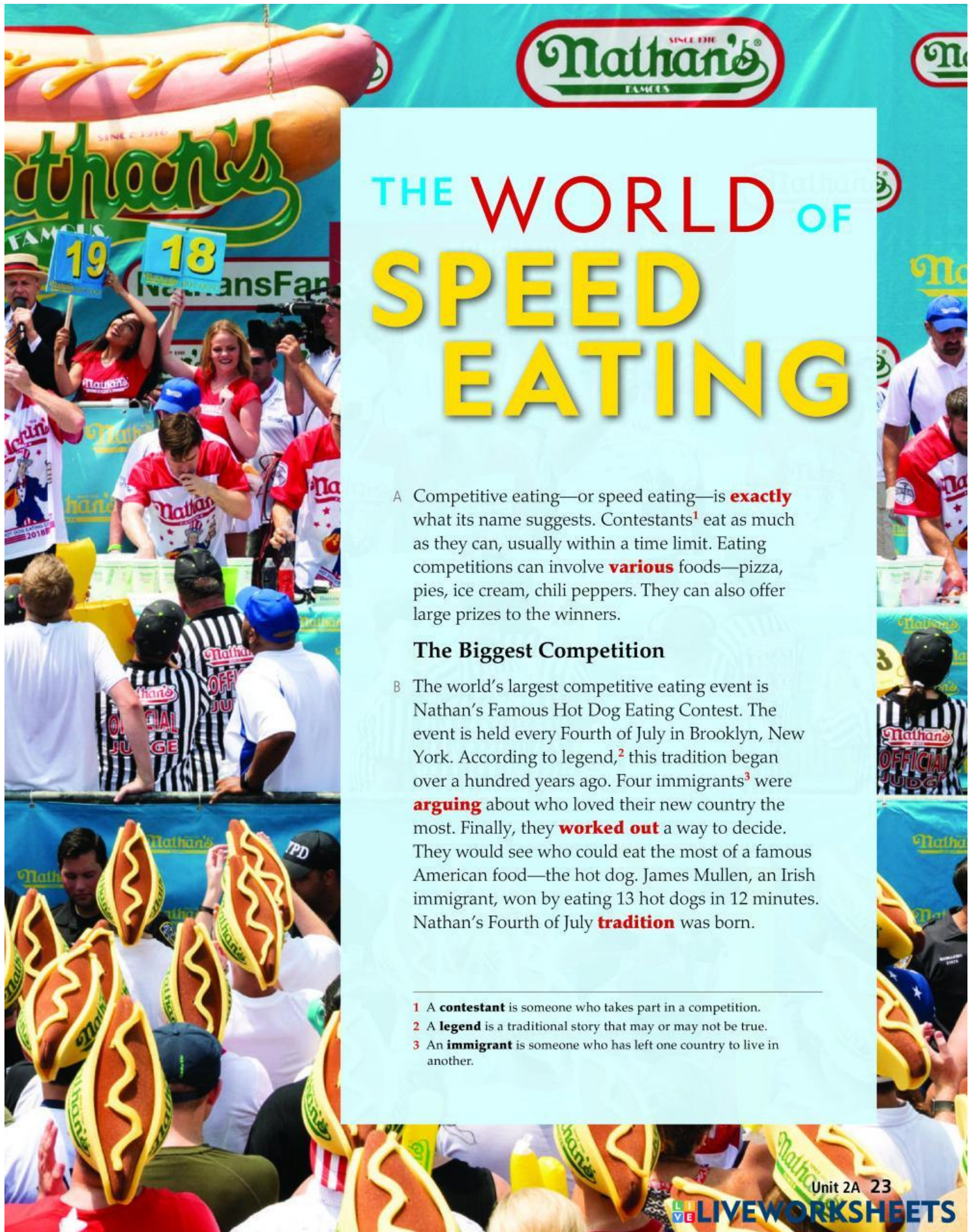




THE WORLD OF SPEED EATING

- A Competitive eating—or speed eating—is **exactly** what its name suggests. Contestants¹ eat as much as they can, usually within a time limit. Eating competitions can involve **various** foods—pizza, pies, ice cream, chili peppers. They can also offer large prizes to the winners.

The Biggest Competition

- B The world's largest competitive eating event is Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest. The event is held every Fourth of July in Brooklyn, New York. According to legend,² this tradition began over a hundred years ago. Four immigrants³ were **arguing** about who loved their new country the most. Finally, they **worked out** a way to decide. They would see who could eat the most of a famous American food—the hot dog. James Mullen, an Irish immigrant, won by eating 13 hot dogs in 12 minutes. Nathan's Fourth of July **tradition** was born.

¹ A **contestant** is someone who takes part in a competition.

² A **legend** is a traditional story that may or may not be true.

³ An **immigrant** is someone who has left one country to live in another.

Eating Champions

- C The current champion* of the contest is Joey Chestnut. Chestnut—an American—also holds the world **record** for hot dog eating—74 in less than 10 minutes. That's just over 8 seconds per hot dog. For many years, the Nathan's Contest champion was Takeru Kobayashi from Japan. He is smaller and lighter than Chestnut, and doesn't look like an eating champion. However, he holds many world records for eating different types of food.

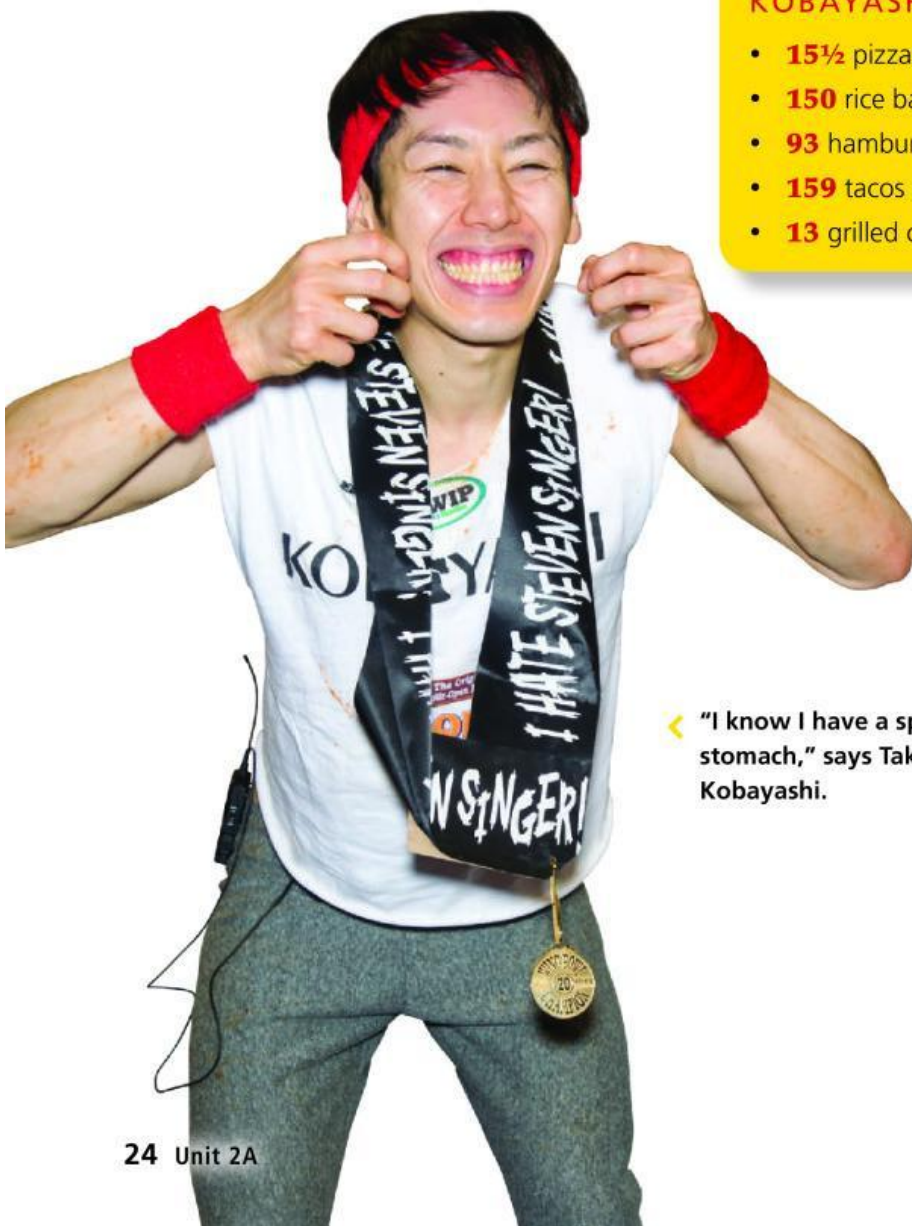
Bad Taste or Just Sport?

- D Not everybody thinks competitive eating is a good thing. It can be **unhealthy** for the contestants, and many people in the world are going hungry. Kobayashi first won the event in 2001 when he was 23 years old. So are eating competitions in bad taste? For competitive eaters, it's a sport like any other. As Kobayashi says, "Food fighters ... think of themselves as **athletes**."

* as of 2018

KOBAYASHI'S WORLD RECORDS

- **15½** pizzas in **12** minutes
- **150** rice balls in **30** minutes
- **93** hamburgers in **8** minutes
- **159** tacos in **10** minutes
- **13** grilled cheese sandwiches in **1** minute



◀ "I know I have a special stomach," says Takeru Kobayashi.

A. Choose the best answer for each question.

GIST

1. What is the reading mainly about?
 - a. the history of hot dogs in the United States
 - b. the career of a famous competitive eater
 - c. eating competitions and the people who take part

PURPOSE

2. What is the purpose of paragraph B?
 - a. to give details about a famous competitive eating event
 - b. to explain how competitive eaters can eat so quickly
 - c. to describe the dangers of competitive eating

DETAIL

3. What is NOT true about Joey Chestnut?
 - a. He is smaller than Takeru Kobayashi.
 - b. He has won Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest.
 - c. He broke the world record for hot dog eating.

PARAPHRASING

4. In paragraph D, which word could replace *in bad taste*?
 - a. wrong
 - b. dangerous
 - c. exciting

INFERENCE

5. Which of the following would Takeru Kobayashi most likely say?
 - a. "Competitive eating is just a fun hobby for me. Winning isn't important."
 - b. "I see competitive eating as a sport, and I always try my best."
 - c. "Eating so much food is unhealthy. Eating competitions should be stopped."



Joey Chestnut is one of the world's most successful speed eaters.

SCANNING

Review this reading skill in Unit 1A

- B. Scan the passage for the names in the box. Match each person (a–c) with the sentence that describes them. Each person may be used more than once.

a. James Mullen b. Joey Chestnut c. Takeru Kobayashi

1. ____ helped start the tradition of hot dog eating contests.
2. ____ won the 2018 Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest.
3. ____ was born in Ireland.
4. ____ holds a record for eating hamburgers.

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

DEFINITIONS A. Complete the information. Circle the correct options.

1. An example of an **athlete** is a *singer* / *soccer player*.
2. People sometimes **argue** when they *agree* / *disagree* about something.
3. When you **work out** something, you *find the answer* / *tell a story*.
4. If something is **unhealthy**, it is *bad* / *good* for you.

COMPLETION B. Complete the information using the words in the box. Two words are extra.

argue athlete exactly records tradition various

Every year, the small Czech town of Vizovice holds a festival to celebrate the plums grown in the area. The festival has a long ¹_____, recently celebrating its 50th year. One of its most popular events is a plum dumpling eating contest.

In 2017, American Patrick Bertoletti won the contest. He ate ²_____ 198 dumplings in one hour. Bertoletti has held ³_____ other world ⁴_____ in speed eating. He won the 2015 Wing Bowl when he ate an amazing 444 chicken wings in just 26 minutes.



▲ Patrick Bertoletti shows off his Wing Bowl championship ring after winning the 2015 event.

COLLOCATIONS C. The prepositions in the box can be used with the verb **argue**. Complete the sentences using the correct prepositions.

about for with

1. The people in the eating contest argued _____ the rules.
2. The customer argued _____ the server because his food came out cold.
3. The kitchen workers argued _____ more money because they make very little.