

Lessons 9–10 What is a restaurant critic?

A _____

Food critics are quick to point out that their job isn't as great as it sounds. Instead, they complain that because they eat out most nights they often put on weight and never have time to go to a gym to lose those extra kilos. Furthermore, they argue that when they visit a restaurant they are working, not enjoying themselves. Despite their complaints, most of us reckon that being a food critic sounds like a fantastic job to have, even if you do put on a few kilos. Imagine being paid to eat at some of the top restaurants in the world, such as *Le Cirque* in New York, where meals can cost over \$150 per person? Moreover, critics often 'have to' go back to the same restaurant several times so they can give a fair description of the place.

B _____

Well, they don't just write about the food they eat, although the meal is important, they also check out the restaurant facilities and the service. For example, is the restaurant clean? Are the waiters polite? Does the food arrive quickly? For an ambitious chef who wants to get ahead in the restaurant business, the support of the food critics is very important. Several bad reviews may result in the restaurant closing.

C _____

Unfortunately it's not that easy, especially if you want to be paid. Newspapers don't just hand out huge amounts of money to anybody. They need to be happy that people want to read and enjoy what the critics say. The best food critics start their careers by writing up their opinions on all sorts of things, not just food, and even if they are successful, many critics continue to write blogs about non-food issues. However, whatever complaints the critics have, it still seems like an amazing job.

1 Skim-read the article.

Match each heading (1–3) to a paragraph (A–C).

1 What does a food critic do?

2 How do you get a job as a food critic?

3 Is this the best job in the world?

