



Extra training

Reading

Task

037

You are going to read an article about unusual dishes.

For questions 1-15, choose from the dishes (1-4).

The dishes may be chosen more than once. (2-3; 6-7; 8-9; 11-12)

The smaller number should come first!

Which delicacy ...

is thought to contain health benefits? 1

takes a long time to prepare? 2 3

is occasionally eaten whole? 4

is harvested in an elevated place? 5

could be fatal if not eaten correctly? 6 7

consists of an animal's fluids? 8 9

is processed underground? 10

is a highly dangerous substance? 11 12

has a strong smell? 13

is incredibly expensive? 14

is guaranteed to be fresh? 15

Extreme Delicacies

1



For most people, dining on rotten meat is not their idea of gourmet cuisine. However, in Iceland, it is a delicacy!

Fermented shark, or hákarl, is made from the deadly Greenland shark, a species that is poisonous when fresh. As such, the locals bury the meat in the sand for several months until the poison decomposes, making it safe to eat. The result is a pungent piece of rotten fish that is so strong it burns the eyes and nose as you chew it! It is an acquired taste that is not for the faint-hearted! Indeed, Anthony Bourdain, a famous celebrity chef, described hákarl as "the single worst, most disgusting and terrible tasting thing" he has ever eaten!

3



While bird's nests may not sound appetising to you, they are actually the main ingredient of Bird's Nest Soup! Known as the

'Caviar of the East', this soup is a rare delicacy in China and parts of South East Asia. The special nests used for the soup belong to a species of bird which builds them using their own saliva. They are typically found on steep coastal cliffs, making them extremely difficult to obtain. Moreover, once collected, each tiny nest must be cleaned by hand; a process that takes many hours. The result of this labour is a bowl of soup that can cost as much as £65, making Bird's Nest Soup one of the priciest foods in the world!

2



Among all the predators in the world, snakes are known to be one of the deadliest. A single snake bite could lead to nausea, paralysis

and even death. However, in Taiwan, a little snake venom is said to be good for the skin! The locals here like to drink the lethal liquid, and are even known to mix it with a drop of snake's blood! Luckily, since snake venom is only harmful when it enters the bloodstream, it has little effect when swallowed. In fact, even the deadliest venom can be safely consumed without causing any harm!

4



Have you ever tried eating octopus?

Chances are, you have. However, how about eating it while it is wriggling around on your

plate? Although it may seem rather off-putting, eating live octopus is a common practice in South Korea. Traditionally, the octopus is sliced just before serving so that it continues to wriggle about and even sticks to the roof of your mouth as you chew it! What's more, some people even go so far as to swallow the entire octopus in one go! Be warned though: this method is extremely dangerous and has resulted in many people choking on their meal as the octopus clings to the inside of their throat! Gulp!