

Hold Your Nose and Eat!

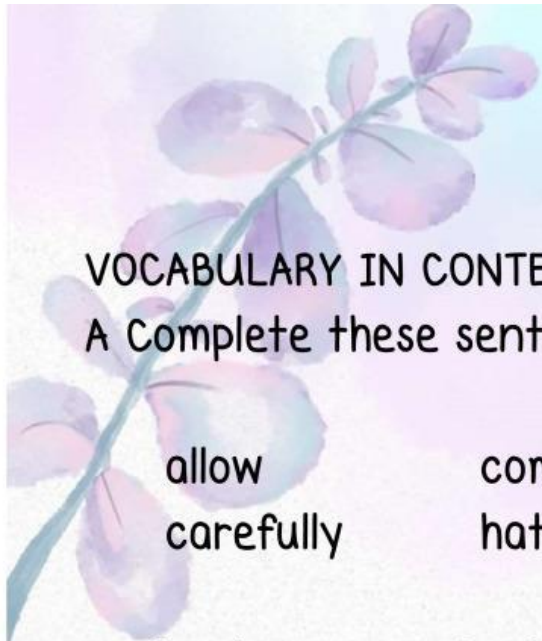
What can smell like dirty socks but can also taste great? The durian! The durian is a fruit from Southeast Asia. It is very popular in countries like Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand, where people call it the "king of fruits." However, the durian is also famous for its terrible smell. The smell is like very dirty socks or strong French cheese. People eat the inside of the fruit, which is soft and creamy but tastes like rotten onions. People either love it or hate it.

It takes the durian fruit four or five years to grow on a durian tree. One fruit can weigh up to seven pounds (over three kilograms). It looks like a spiky ball and is difficult to hold in your hands. In the summer, when the durian is ready to eat, you can smell it in the air. In countries like Malaysia and Borneo, one durian can sometimes sell for about 50 U.S. dollars!



Many Asian countries do not allow the durian in taxis, buses, trains, planes, elevators, stores, or hotels because of its smell. In hotels, the staff's watch their guests carefully to see if they are carrying a durian to their room because when the durian smell gets into a room, it is very difficult to get it out. So, don't leave one in your car! Thailand produces the most durians. Because the fruit is so popular, there is a nine-day festival for it there. At the festival, there are different kinds of durian fruit, durian eating competitions, and even durian drinks and durian chips. If you want to try a durian, you can follow these steps: First, cut a hole into the durian with a knife. Next, with your fingers, pull the durian open into two halves. Then take out the soft inside part of each half. Finally, eat it with your hands, but be careful of the seeds. Hold your nose and enjoy!





VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

Complete these sentences with the words in the box.

allow
carefully

competitions
hate

terrible
produces

popular
weigh

1. The durian is a fruit people love or_____.
2. Thailand_____ the most durian.
3. The durian has a(n)_____ smell.
4. In some countries, they do not_____durian on trains and buses.
5. The durian was very big. I wanted to_____it to see how heavy it was.
6. The manager of the hotel watched me_____to see if I was carrying a durian.
7. The durian is_____in Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand.
8. At the festival, there are durian-eating_____

