

# Ever eaten dog?

## Introduction

Mark the items listed below as follows:

0 = I have never eaten it.

2 = I eat it quite often.

1 = I have eaten it once or twice.

3 = I eat it a lot.

<i>steak</i>	<i>fish</i>	<i>horse</i>	<i>ostrich</i>	<i>bacon</i>	<i>chicken/egg</i>
<i>dog</i>	<i>eel or snake</i>	<i>shellfish</i>	<i>deer</i>	<i>goose</i>	<i>insects</i>

Compare your answers in pairs or small groups.

## Reading

Read the article below and then answer these questions:

1. What did the writer do?
2. Why did he do it?
3. How did he feel about it?

### CANINE CUISINE

Guess what? I've eaten dog. And not only did I eat it, I ate it because I wanted to. I ate three courses of it. I enjoyed it. And I don't care what you think. I was in Seoul, South Korea, sent there to write some background articles before the start of the 2002 World Cup. International pressure on the Koreans to stop eating dog was not having any discernable effect. The Koreans were upset, understandably, at the hypocritical attitude of 'snail-eating, horsemeat-eating Westerners'. How, as an impartial journalist, could I write an informed piece on dog-eating? Obviously I had to try some.

My taxi driver nearly had an accident when I asked him to take me to the best dog restaurant in town. Westerners don't do that. The head waiter looked surprised too, but politely explained the menu to me.

You may not believe this, but at home I am largely vegetarian – though more from fear of 'scientific' farming methods than from ethics. So partly because of that, and partly because of memories of much-loved childhood pets, I braced myself with a couple of beers before the food arrived.

I started slowly. But then, with increasing enthusiasm, I tucked into my starter of poshintang, a wonderful doggy soup; followed by soo yuck, dog slices; and then jin-guk, dog casserole. Yum!

Neighbouring diners watched with interest as this Westerner appreciated their fine Korean delicacies! Whilst not a sight they will ever see again – too strong are my vegetarian sentiments – I must stress it was not an experience about which I feel any guilt.

## True or false?

Read the article again. Mark the following sentences T (true) or F (false):

1. The writer had been sent to research some articles on Korean cuisine.
2. Koreans rarely see Westerners eating dog.
3. The writer eats a lot of meat at home.
4. The writer liked dog so much he plans to make it a regular part of his diet.

## Discussion

Work in pairs or small groups and discuss the following questions:

1. Do you think the writer needed to eat dog to be able to write an article?
2. If you had been in the writer's position, would you have eaten dog?
3. Would you ever eat dog? Why/Why not?
4. Are there things which people in your country eat that people from other countries find unpleasant?
5. Is eating dog any worse than eating lamb or veal? Why/Why not?

## Language

Describing food

1. Put these adjectives into the appropriate group below:

<i>fatty</i>	<i>tough</i>	<i>delicious</i>	<i>appetising</i>
<i>tasty</i>	<i>sweet</i>	<i>bitter</i>	<i>disgusting</i>
<i>rich</i>	<i>spicy</i>	<i>inedible</i>	<i>mouth-watering</i>
<i>sour</i>	<i>bland</i>	<i>oily</i>	<i>tasteless</i>

- a. to describe the general quality of food

.....  
 .....

- b. to describe a particular quality of food

.....  
 .....

2. In the box above, mark each adjective:

+ = positive

- = negative

3. Choose a negative adjective from the box to describe each of these foods:

- a. steak .....
- b. salad dressing .....
- c. coffee .....
- d. curry .....
- e. lemon .....

4. Think of other types of food which can be described by the above adjectives. For example:

*Oranges can be bitter.*

*Frogs' legs probably taste disgusting.*

## Discussion

1. Work in pairs or small groups. Discuss these questions in pairs or small groups:

1. What is the most unusual thing you have ever eaten?
2. What is the most unusual thing you have ever been offered?
3. Are there any common sorts of food that you really hate? What are they? Why do you hate them?

2. Where do you think the following things are eaten? Match the country or region to the food:

<i>South Africa</i>	<i>Burma</i>
<i>Colombia</i>	<i>Japan</i>
<i>Cambodia</i>	<i>California</i>

1. deep fried tarantula
2. chocolate-dipped scorpion
3. grasshopper marinated in soy sauce
4. deep fried ants
5. cockroach kebab
6. termites fried in tomato

Have you ever eaten insects? If so, what sort? What did they taste like? If not, what do you think they taste like?

3. Read these articles and discuss the questions:

Sepp Blatter, President of FIFA, has written to the South Korean Football Association urging them to be sensitive to foreign feelings and to take dog off the menu during the World Cup.

1. Is it acceptable for Sepp Blatter to try and stop the Koreans eating dog? Why/Why not?
2. Does a sports organisation have any right to try and interfere in the eating habits of a nation?

Brigitte Bardot, French actress and animal rights activist, has outraged the Koreans by using the World Cup to lead a campaign against the eating of dog.

1. Does Brigitte Bardot have any more right than Sepp Blatter to take this attitude? Why/Why not?
2. A Korean politician has said: 'Foreign criticism of dog meat reflects lack of understanding of our nation's ancient culture.' Do you agree? Why/ Why not?

Why not have a look at the following website?  
[www.tomatoesareevil.com](http://www.tomatoesareevil.com)

Is there one which you would like to set up?