

Reference Skills

for
Word
Wisdom

You Want Me to Eat What?

Foods Around the World

Imagine that you are on a fun vacation in England. You go to a nice restaurant for dinner, but the menu is filled with foods you do not recognize. You order “black pudding” because at least you know what pudding is. When it arrives at your table, you realize that black pudding is sausage made from the blood of a pig! Yuck!

Food preferences are different all over the world. What we think is **disgusting** to eat, people in other countries might enjoy. Let’s take a look at some of the foods eaten in other parts of the world.

In the Philippines, there is a traditional meal called “chocolate pork” stew, or *diniguan*. Don’t let the word *chocolate* fool you, though. It might sound sweet, but it is not a **confection**. It is a **concoction** of pig blood mixed with pig parts, such as the head, liver, and heart. While you and I might find this dish **distasteful**, it is very popular in that country. The Philippines is also home to *baalut*, a meal that begins with a chicken egg. This might sound

palatable so far, but there is more to the meal. The egg is buried in the ground for a few weeks. Then the **putrid** egg is dug up and eaten. Have you ever smelled a rotten egg? How would you like to eat one?


In Japan, one popular **delicacy** is the puffer fish, or *fugu*. This poisonous fish must be prepared just right. Otherwise, the person eating it could be paralyzed or die. In fact, experts estimate that 300 people a year die from eating *fugu*.


A **sumptuous** meal in China is monkey brains. Some people in Tibet enjoy drinking yak milk that is **rancid** instead of being fresh and unspoiled. Certain tribes in Africa drink the fresh blood of the animals they kill. And down under in Australia, kangaroo meat is becoming more and more popular.


People in some parts of the world also enjoy eating insects. If you found worms in your food, you would probably think it was **contaminated** and throw it away. But in Korea, people eat worms. And people in many countries eat grasshoppers and crickets. Some people even eat chocolate-covered ants. And you thought Brussels sprouts were gross!


Practice the **Context Clues Strategy** Here is one of the boldfaced words from the essay on page 18. Use the context clues strategy you learned in Part 1 on page 7 to figure out the meaning of this word.


confection

 **Read** the sentence that uses the word *confection*. Read some of the sentences around the word.

 **Look** for context clues. What words tell you **What Kind of Thing the Word Is?**

 **Think** about the context clues. What other helpful information do you know?

 **Predict** a meaning for the word *confection*.

 **Check** your Word Wisdom Dictionary to be sure of the meaning of the word *confection*. Write the definition here.



Unlock the Meanings

The Dictionary Words in the dictionary are listed in alphabetical order. The dictionary is divided into sections, with tabs or indents to show where the sections are located.

When looking up a word's meaning in a dictionary, find the section that contains all the words that begin with the same letter as the word you are looking up. Then, look for words that have the same two or three letters after the first letter as the word you're looking for.

Finding Words in the Dictionary Use a dictionary to look up the words *rancid*, *concoction*, *delicacy*, *palatable*, and *contaminate* from the Word List on page 21. Place each word in the chart below in alphabetical order. Write the words that appear in the dictionary before and after the vocabulary word.

Vocabulary Word	Word Before Vocabulary Word	Word After Vocabulary Word



**Find
the
Meaning**

1. Use context clues.
2. Look for a familiar root, prefix, or suffix.
3. If the context or a word part doesn't help, check the dictionary.

Define the Words Follow the steps to write the meaning of the boldfaced words. Write 1, 2, or 3 to show which steps you used.

WORD LIST

disgusting

confection

concoction

distasteful

palatable

putrid

delicacy

sumptuous

rancid

contaminate

1 The **concoction** was made with walnuts and cream cheese.

2 Ten chefs prepared the **sumptuous** feast for the king's wedding.

3 After a week, the milk became **rancid** and unfit to drink.

4 Fish eggs are a **delicacy** served on special occasions.

5 Uncle Tony adjusted the recipe until the sauce was **palatable**.

6 The lovely **confection** was decorated with icing and flowers.

7 After lying on the counter all night, the fish became **putrid**.

8 The children thought the green noodles looked **disgusting**.

9 Leaking oil and chemicals can **contaminate** drinking water.

10 Chopping onions can be a **distasteful** chore.



Process the Meanings

WORD LIST

disgusting

confection

concoction

distasteful

palatable

putrid

delicacy

sumptuous

rancid

contaminate

Find the Synonyms Choose a word from the Word List that matches each synonym below, and write the word on the line.

1 unpleasant _____

2 pollute _____

3 magnificent _____

4 rotten _____

5 sickening _____

Complete the Meanings Write the word that best completes each sentence.

6 A confection tastes _____.

sour sweet spicy

7 Food that is palatable is _____.

bitter chunky tasty

8 If butter became rancid, it would be _____.

spoiled fresh melted

9 A concoction is a _____.

mixture cake meal

10 If a food is called a delicacy, it is very _____.

plain inexpensive special



Apply What You've Learned

Demonstrate Word Knowledge Circle the letter of the item that correctly completes the sentence or answers the question.

- 1** To make a **confection**, you would use
a. sugar b. garlic
- 2** Which is *not* a **delicacy**?
a. bread b. lobster
- 3** If food in the refrigerator is **rancid**, you should
a. eat it b. throw it away
- 4** To make a **concoction**, you would
a. preheat the oven b. mix together several ingredients
- 5** Where might you eat a **sumptuous** meal?
a. at a fancy restaurant b. at a fast-food chain
- 6** When something is **contaminated**, it is not
a. pure b. helpful
- 7** A **distasteful** experience would be
a. disagreeable b. fun
- 8** Fruit that is **putrid** is probably
a. just picked b. quite old
- 9** How would a **palatable** steak taste?
a. too tough b. good enough to eat
- 10** If your lunch looked **disgusting**, you would
a. not want to eat it b. ask for more



Write It! Write a humorous short story describing a meal you would not want to eat. To get ideas, look through the reading selections on pages 6, 12, and 18. What foods sound disgusting to you? What kind of concoctions would you never eat? Use as many words from the Word List on page 22 as you can.