

## FOOD IDIOMS

Stew in his/her own juice  
Butter him/her up  
Cheesed off  
Since sliced bread

egg on our face  
on the breadline  
take that with a pinch of salt  
eggs in 1 basket

1. The politicians say the financial situation has never been better- Try telling that to the people living.....

2. What's the matter?

> I was supposed to be off today but I've been told I have to come in to work. I'm really.....

3. A few days before we ask our boss for anything, we start being extra nice to her. We ..... and it always works.

4. There's a rumour going around that we are being sold to a Korean company. I'd ..... as it is complete nonsense.

5. Don't call Mike to see if he is ready to say sorry about the argument. Let him ..... for a while.

6. We ended up with ..... when it turned out it was all our fault and not Jerry's.

7. My new software is the best thing .....  
. It's made my job so much easier.

8. It's better to invest in a variety of different companies instead of just one. Don't put all your .....

## THE LESSER OF 2 EVILS

If you *really* had to choose would you rather ...

have your sight or your legs

work as a street sweeper or be unemployed

be clever but unattractive or good-looking but dim

walk home in the pouring rain or stand at the bus stop for an hour

see Poland qualify for the World Cup but lose all their matches or prefer that Poland doesn't qualify

eat something too salty or drink something too sweet

be praised by the teacher but fail the test or be criticised by the teacher and pass the test

have your mobile phone or your English coursebooks stolen

be stung by a wasp or get sunburn

jeans or trainers were banned

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## The tale of the threatening tree

I (walk) along the road a short time when I (see) a most curious thing.

On the other side was what can only (describe) as a walking tree.

Intrigued, I (cross) the road and (follow) the tree for a while. After I

(do) this for 5 minutes the tree suddenly (turn) round and (charge)

straight at me. I (look) the other way at that moment and so the tree

(crash) into me (knock) me over. I (fall) unconscious and when I

(regain) consciousness a large group of people (stand) over me.

I (ask) them how long I (be) unconscious and (tell) that it (be) just

a moment. I realized that the tree (go). I enquired about its

whereabouts and everyone started (laugh).

“Why (laugh)?” I asked.

One man (step) forward and (explained) in a gentle voice.

“That (be) not a tree, young man. You just (have) a close encounter with David Beckham. He was in disguise and (try) to escape the

Paparazzi and you (assume) to be one of them.”

(Get) up slowly I (feel) my pocket empty. My wallet (steal)!

England's footballing hero was nothing but a petty criminal and he

probably (sit) at home at this very moment (laugh) his head off!

## Answering strategy

- 1 Read through the initial sentence and the questions for each extract carefully but quickly (you have 15 seconds for this). This will give you an idea of what to listen for.
- 2 During the 5 seconds' pause between extracts, quickly re-read the statement and questions for the next extract.
- 3 Circle your answers while you listen.
- 4 If you are unsure about an answer, make a mark beside the option you think is correct, then make your final choice when you listen for the second time.

You will hear four different extracts. For questions 1–8, choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear. There are two questions for each extract.

### Extract One

You hear a man talking about the plant lavender.

- 1 How does he regard lavender nowadays?
  - A It's something grandmothers keep on dressing tables.
  - B It's a reminder of the past.
  - C It's become much more popular.
- 2 What warning does he give about buying lavender-based products?
  - A Their smell may be too overwhelming.
  - B They may contain artificial additives.
  - C They may be labelled incorrectly.

1

2

## Question hints

Questions in this part of the test focus on: general meaning, detail, main ideas, feelings, opinions, attitude, function, purpose and topic.

2 This focuses on detail. You need to listen for specific information.

3 You need to listen carefully to the speakers' reactions to each other's comments.

### Extract Two

You hear two work colleagues talking about their eating habits.

- 3 What do they agree about?
  - A the importance of working regular hours
  - B the necessity to organise one's life
  - C the advice given by nutrition experts
- 4 What do they decide to do?
  - A skip lunch when they're busy at work
  - B forget about conventional eating habits
  - C treat themselves to a proper meal

3

4



**Extract Three**

You hear a doctor talking on a radio health programme about how to improve the quality of life.

- 5 In the speaker's opinion, what effect does taking up extra activities like aerobics have?
- A It reduces our sense of failure.
- B It increases our workload.
- C It improves our sleep patterns.
- 6 The speaker advises those under pressure to
- A manage their time more realistically.
- B forget about the chores they have to do.
- C write a long list of what needs doing.

	5
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	6
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**Extract Four**

You hear a woman talking on a sports programme about a white-water rafting centre.

- 7 Why does she recommend the centre?
- A The rapids are more challenging than on most rivers abroad.
- B The organisers put a great emphasis on safety.
- C The activities are suitable for newcomers to the sport.
- 8 What can sometimes happen at the centre?
- A There may not be enough guides for one-to-one tuition.
- B There may be insufficient water to practise on.
- C There may not be a place if you don't book well in advance.

	7
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	8
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*Lalka* is a restaurant located at Marszałkowska street in Warsaw. I visited it in early December with my friend. It has been recommended to us by a lot of people so we were naturally curious about this place.

First thing you notice when you enter inside is a beautiful design. The interior is very spacious but at the same time warm and cozy. What is interesting about it is that every table don't look the same. Behind some of them you can sit on sofas or comfortable armchairs. The most important thing creating this special atmosphere are thoughtfully arranged lights.

Their specialty are pancakes and savory or sweet crepes but they also offer few kinds of salads and pasta. We both decided to order savory crepes - for me with minced meat and for my friend with chanterelles. What is really nice is that you can choose extra sauce to your order. When it comes to portions they are really big and cheap at the same time. It sounds like it is a perfect place but when we finally get our order we were a little bit disappointed. Crepes were like made of gum and the stuffing was tasty but not so much that I would remember it for a long time.

Summing up I think that this restaurant has a lot of potential and got almost everything to be a perfect place to meet with friends and eat something quite cheap. The menu is really interesting and the choice is wide but in my opinion they still need to work on making it more tasty and more simple.