

THE LUNCHEON

1. "I never eat anything for luncheon," she said. Explain the irony of the statement with reference to the story.

The narrator takes the woman to an expensive restaurant called Foyot's. He is startled when he sees the high prices on the menu, but is relieved when his guest tells him, "I never eat anything for luncheon." When she actually does start eating, she finds it difficult to stop. Although she keeps repeating, 'I never eat anything,' she keeps ordering more and more. She orders everything ala carte which makes everything more expensive. She could also be one of those people who liked to order expensive dishes.

2. What sacrifices did the narrator make to limit his expenditure at Foyots?

On seeing the menu, the narrator was startled as the prices were a great deal higher than he had anticipated. The narrator ordered a mutton chop for himself because it was the cheapest dish on the menu. The woman eats some of the most expensive things available, like salmon and caviar, while the poor narrator only eats a mutton chop. She said that she would eat the asparagus because the writer 'insists', when it was she who had asked for them. The narrator was seized with panic and it was not a question that how much money he would have leftover for the rest of the month, but whether he had enough to pay the bill.