

Phrasal verbs

C Write one word in each gap.

Restaurant review: *La Clara*, Kensington

by Celia Clarke

I've taken (1) not booking a table in my real name for these restaurant reviews, as there's always the fear that I'll receive special attention if they know I'm a food critic. For Adam Carter's new restaurant, *La Clara*, on Kensington High Street, I took this one stage further by not booking a table at all.

Earlier in the evening, some friends had come (2) for a chat and mentioned *La Clara*. We decided just to drop (3) to see if there was a free table. There wasn't – always a risk if you (4) up without booking, of course – but we decided to wait. And wait we did. Having arrived at about 9.30, it was getting (5) for eleven before we were finally seated. Incidentally, while we were having a drink at the bar, we ran (6) the food critic of a rival newspaper. She said this was one of her favourite restaurants at the moment. I'd like to be able to report that I now agree, but unfortunately our meal turned (7) to be far from wonderful.

I ordered mushroom troubadour as a starter. The sauce tasted like the cream had (8) off. It was practically inedible. My friend Jane ordered salmon sentinale. Fifteen minutes after my mushrooms had arrived, the waiter came over to say that they had (9) out of salmon. He went (10) to say that they would be closing at midnight. It was already 11.30. The head chef of *La Clara* likes to try (11) one new dish every day. This is called the Chef's Special. I decided to have this – a not-particularly-exciting pasta dish – for the main course. It wasn't bad, but the waiter kept (12) coming over to see if we had finished. We hadn't. I'll leave (13) a description of the dessert. We had to eat it so quickly I can't even remember what it tasted like.

I don't want to (14) anyone off trying *La Clara* – all new restaurants have problems at the start – but I for one shan't be going back any time soon.

Phrases and collocations

D Read ten different ways of explaining things (what something is, how to do something, etc) and decide where these texts appear.

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| A in the instructions for a dishwasher | F on a menu |
| B in the instructions for a washing machine | G in an advertisement for a restaurant |
| C in the instructions for an electric cooker | H in a toast at a celebration |
| D in a recipe book | I in an article on dieting |
| E on a sign in a health food shop | J in an article on organising a dinner party |

- 1 Only heat-resistant ceramic and glass dishes should be used for oven baking/roasting.
- 2 A homemade chunky and succulent beefburger, filled with mozzarella cheese and served with a side salad and baked potato.
- 3 Wash the carrots and slice. Set to one side. Boil the potatoes for six minutes or until slightly soft to the touch.
- 4 Open seven days a week. Ideal for wedding receptions, birthday parties and other special occasions.
- 5 Large plates, dishes and bowls should be loaded into the bottom rack (1). Glasses should be placed upside down on the top rack (2). Cutlery should be placed in the cutlery container (3).
- 6 Are you fed up with trying to lose weight and failing? Doreen Brown asks top nutritionists how we can lose that fat, and not put it back on again.
- 7 Make a note of all the things you have to do before your guests arrive (laying the table, getting changed, etc), and when you have to do them. If you're planning to cook the meal yourself (rather than having catering), make sure you choose a menu you know well. Do not experiment with new dishes on this kind of occasion!