

# A Food Contest

ESL Unit by Road To Grammar

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## Warm-up Questions

Discuss the following questions:

- 1 What kind of food do you like to eat?
- 2 Is there any kind of food that you can't stand?
- 3 What did you have for dinner yesterday?



## Sharing Experiences



**Harmony**

A lot of my friends eat junk food and fast food, but not me! I want to be slim and healthy. I eat lots of vegetables and fruit and I cut down on carbs and meat. When I feel like a treat, I make myself a banana and pineapple smoothie.



**Pedro**

I come from Spain but I really love to eat Japanese food, especially sushi and sashimi. Some of my friends don't like sashimi because it is raw fish, but I love it. There is a Japanese restaurant near my house and I go there when I can, but it's a little pricey.

### The Kid Who Cooked

Two years ago, Elliot West was more or less just like any other ten-year-old kid. The only thing that made Elliot any different was that he loved cooking.

But everything changed for Elliot one day when he saw an interesting announcement on the Internet. A TV show called Junior Kitchen Star was holding a contest for kids who enjoyed cooking and baking. Elliot was excited. Before reading about this show, he hadn't known there were other kids who enjoyed the same hobby as he did. He applied to enter the contest immediately.

To qualify for the contest, Elliot had to win a preliminary round against ten other kids from his town. He won easily with a dish of pasta and scallops. He was in the competition!

Whereas the preliminary round had been easy, the televised rounds were incredibly difficult. Elliot had to cook against the clock and with limited ingredients. In one challenge, Elliot had to serve up food for a restaurant full of people. The judges were tough and when they had a negative comment about Elliot's food, he had to try really hard not to cry.

While taking part in the competition, the contestants were given cooking lessons from top chefs and this gave Elliot a chance to learn even more about cooking at the highest level.

Week by week, the other competitors were eliminated until finally only two were left for the final. One was Elliot and the other was Charles, the son of Pierre La Fontaine, the famous French chef. Over three gruelling hours, Elliot and Charles each created and prepared a seven-course meal for the judges. It was very close, but the judges all said they had loved Elliot's roast goose served with a red wine sauce. Elliot was declared the winner!

After winning the contest, Elliot's life did not go back to normal. In fact, he became something of a celebrity. He travelled to schools to give cooking demonstrations and produced his own cooking show on YouTube.

Elliot is twelve now. He's still just a kid, but he has a very bright future indeed.



### Vocabulary list:

*qualify*  
*goose*

*preliminary round*  
*eliminated*

*scallops*

*gruelling*

*seven-course meal*

### Phrases to remember:

*everything changed*  
*against the clock*  
*a very bright future*

# Task:

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage:

**1 How did Elliot hear about the cooking show?**

- A| From his parents
- B| From the Internet
- C| From the radio

**2 What did Elliot have to do to qualify for the contest?**

- A| He had to win a round against local kids
- B| He had to cook pasta with scallops
- C| He had to get permission from his parents

**3 Which of the following is true?**

- A| The judges in the competition were unfair
- B| The main competition was just as hard as the qualifying round.
- C| In the competition, the contestants were given time limits.

**4 When the judges criticized Elliot's food, \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A| he found it difficult not to cry
- B| he couldn't hold back his tears
- C| he cried

**5 During the contest, how did Elliot get even better at cooking?**

- A| He found lessons on the Internet
- B| The judges gave the contestants advice.
- C| The contestants were given lessons.

**6 What do we know about the finals?**

- A| The contestants were asked to cook goose.
- B| The contestants were given three hours to cook.
- C| The contestants had to serve three dishes.

**7 What happened to Elliot after the competition?**

- A| He went back to school.
- B| He became quite famous.
- C| He starred in another TV show.

## A Food Contest

### Listening Game:

Listen to the riddles and write the answers in the blanks.

(Audio at <http://roadtogrammar.com/units/foodcontest/listening.html>)

1 I am a \_\_\_\_\_

6 I am \_\_\_\_\_

2 I am a \_\_\_\_\_

7 I am \_\_\_\_\_

3 I am an \_\_\_\_\_

8 I am \_\_\_\_\_

4 I am \_\_\_\_\_

9 I am an \_\_\_\_\_

5 I am \_\_\_\_\_

10 I am \_\_\_\_\_

### Vocabulary Task:

Fill in the blanks with the words from the box

round      winner      qualify      eliminated  
preliminary      declared      judges      contestant



1 To \_\_\_\_\_ for the competition, you need to be a good cook.

2 The \_\_\_\_\_ round was easier than the rest of the competition.

3 The \_\_\_\_\_ will give you a score out of 10.

4 One by one, the competitors were \_\_\_\_\_.

5 Each \_\_\_\_\_ of the contest was tougher than the last.

6 Elliot was \_\_\_\_\_ the winner of the competition.

## A Food Contest

### After / Before / While + -ing

1 We link sentences together using **after**, **before** and **while**, but have you ever noticed that there is a way to shorten these sentences?

Observe how the following sentence can be shortened:

**After Robert ate breakfast**, he went for a walk.

**After eating breakfast**, Robert went for a walk.

Look at these examples from our reading passage:

**Before reading about this show**, he hadn't known there were other kids who enjoyed the same hobby as he did.

**While taking part in the competition**, the contestants were given cooking lessons.

**After winning the contest**, Elliot's life did not go back to normal.

2 Note that we can change the positions of the clauses.

**After eating breakfast**, I went for a walk.

I went for a walk **after eating breakfast**.

Did you note that the first sentence has a comma but the second doesn't?

3 We can sometimes use this construction with the words **until** and **when**:

**When flying long distance**, it is advisable not to drink too much coffee.

**Until visiting China**, I had never heard of a red panda.

4 A common mistake is to shorten a sentence in this way, when the subjects don't match.

For example, this sentence is not correct:

**Wrong: The doorbell rang while washing the dishes.**

The sentence makes it sound like the doorbell was doing the dishes! The correct sentence is as follows:

**Correct: The doorbell rang while I was doing the dishes.**

We cannot reduce the sentence because of the different subjects, the doorbell and I.

As a further example, we *can* reduce this sentence:

**I sneezed while I was chopping the onions.**

**I sneezed while chopping the onions.**

## Task:

**1 While \_\_\_\_\_ the jungle, Dr Jones discovered a new species of frog.**

- A| exploring
- B| explored
- C| explore

**2 After \_\_\_\_\_ the medicine, Pete felt much better.**

- A| took
- B| taken
- C| taking

**3 Before \_\_\_\_\_ to Italy, I had never tasted real Italian cuisine.**

- A| went
- B| go
- C| going

**4 When \_\_\_\_\_ Japan, be sure to try sushi.**

- A| visited
- B| visiting
- C| visit

**5 Until \_\_\_\_\_ Deborah, Ben thought he would never fall in love.**

- A| meeting
- B| met
- C| he meeting

**6 When \_\_\_\_\_ this dish, you need to make sure the beef is not undercooked.**

- A| preparing
- B| prepared
- C| prepare

**7 Which sentence is correct?**

- A| While cooking lunch, the chicken smelled delicious.
- B| While cooking lunch, Joe spilled salt all over the floor.
- C| While cooking lunch, there was a nice song on the radio.

**8 Which sentence is correct?**

- A| Before coming to Texas, never met a real cowboy.
- B| Before coming to Texas, I had never met a real cowboy.
- C| Before I coming to Texas, I had never met a real cowboy.

**9 Which sentence is correct?**

- A| Someone interrupted me while I speaking.
- B| She interrupted me while speaking.
- C| I was interrupted while speaking.

**10 Which sentence is correct?**

- A| Before roasted the chicken, Frank preparing the stuffing.
- B| Before Frank roasted the chicken, preparing the stuffing.
- C| Before roasting the chicken, Frank prepared the stuffing.

# A Food Contest

## Writing Task

Write a review for a restaurant you have been to recently.

You could mention:

- whether you liked the food
- the decor of the restaurant
- the service
- the price



## Long Discussion

Discuss the following questions:

- 1 Can you cook?
- 2 Do you like foreign cuisines? If so, which ones?
- 3 Do you have a healthy diet?
- 4 Do you ever watch food shows on TV?
- 5 What is your favorite restaurant?
- 6 Are you allergic to any types of food?
- 7 Would you like to work as a chef?
- 8 Is it expensive to buy food where you live?





# A Food Contest

## Answer Key:

### Reading

|     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 B | 4 A | 7 B |
| 2 A | 5 C |     |
| 3 C | 6 B |     |

### Listening

1. I am a **banana**.
2. I am a **pea**.
3. I am an **onion**.
4. I am **cheese**.
5. I am **coffee**.
6. I am **jam**.
7. I am **rice**.
8. I am **milk**.
9. I am an **egg**.
10. I am **pizza**.

### Vocabulary

- 1 To **qualify** for the competition, you need to be a good cook.
- 2 The **preliminary** round was easier than the rest of the competition.
- 3 The **judges** will give you a score out of 10.
- 4 One by one, the competitors were **eliminated**.
- 5 Each **round** of the contest was tougher than the last.
- 6 Elliot was **declared** the winner of the competition.

### Grammar and Language

|     |     |      |
|-----|-----|------|
| 1 A | 5 A | 9 C  |
| 2 C | 6 A | 10 C |
| 3 C | 7 B |      |
| 4 B | 8 B |      |

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