

# The Food Festival



Two friends, Anna and Ben, were walking through the city one evening. They were very hungry and wanted to eat something tasty and different. Anna suggested that they should try some local food from Italy. She mentioned delicious dishes like lasagna, a layered pasta meal, and risotto, a creamy rice dish. Ben's mouth watered as he thought about the warm, cheesy layers of lasagna.

However, Ben had another idea. He wanted to try some local Japanese food. He told Anna about the wonderful dishes like miso soup, a warm, flavorful broth, and onigiri, a rice ball with a tasty filling. His favorite was ramen, a noodle soup with various toppings. Anna imagined the steam rising from a hot bowl of ramen and the scent of miso soup. Both options sounded so inviting, and choosing one was difficult.

They decided to make a game of it. They would each list the reasons they wanted to eat Italian or Japanese food. Anna spoke of the rich sauces and the sweet taste of tomato in pizza. Ben countered with the freshness of sushi and the satisfying simplicity of onigiri. As they talked, they realized they were standing right in front of a food festival.

To their surprise and joy, the festival had both Italian and Japanese food stalls. Their eyes lit up at the sight. They didn't have to choose one anymore! They could taste both lasagna and ramen, try a slice of pizza, and enjoy a bowl of miso soup. This unexpected turn of events made them both very happy. They spent the rest of the evening trying different dishes, smiling, and laughing at their good luck.

In the end, Anna and Ben agreed that all the food was delicious. They learned that it's not just the food that matters, but also the joy of sharing a meal with a good friend. This food festival was something they would remember for a long time.

## CEFR Level Card

**General Level:** B1.6 (Local food names excluded)

**Vocabulary:** A2.4

**Verb Forms:** A1.9

**Sentences:** B1.1

## Vocabulary

**broth** NOUN C2 x1

Definition (En):

n. liquid in which meat and vegetables are simmered; used as a basis for e.g. soups or sauces  
n. a thin soup of meat or fish or vegetable stock

**cheesy** ADJ B2 x1

Definition (En):

s of very poor quality; flimsy

**counter** VERB C1 x1

Definition (En):

n. table consisting of a horizontal surface over which business is transacted  
n. game equipment (as a piece of wood, plastic, or ivory) used for keeping a count or reserving a space in various card or board games  
n. a calculator that keeps a record of the number of times something happens  
n. a person who counts things

**creamy** ADJ C1 x1

Definition (En):

s. of the color of cream  
s. thick like cream

**flavorful** ADJ +∞ x1

Definition (En):

s. full of flavor

**inviting** ADJ B2 x1

Definition (En):

a. attractive and tempting

**layered** ADJ +∞ x1

Definition (En):

s. with one layer on top of another

**noodle** NOUN B2 x1

Definition (En):

n. a ribbonlike strip of pasta

**scent** NOUN B2 x1

Definition (En):

- n. an odor left in passing by which a person or animal can be traced  
 v. catch the scent of; get wind of

**steam** NOUN B2 x1

Definition (En):

- n. water at boiling temperature diffused in the atmosphere  
 v. emit steam  
 v. rise as vapor  
 v. get very angry

**topping** NOUN B2 x1

Definition (En):

- n. a flavorful addition on top of a dish

## Phrases

PHRASE	COUNT	SENTENCES
(one's) eyes light up	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Their <b>eyes lit up</b> at the sight.</li> </ul>
counter with (something)	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ben <b>countered with</b> the freshness of sushi and the satisfying simplicity of onigiri.</li> </ul>
good luck	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They spent the rest of the evening trying different dishes, smiling, and laughing at their <b>good luck</b>.</li> </ul>
in front of (someone or something)	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As they talked, they realized they were standing right <b>in front of</b> a food festival.</li> </ul>
in the end	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>In the end</b>, Anna and Ben agreed that all the food was delicious.</li> </ul>
rise from (something)	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anna imagined the steam <b>rising from</b> a hot bowl of ramen and the scent of miso soup.</li> </ul>
turn of events	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This unexpected <b>turn of events</b> made them both very happy.</li> </ul>

# Reading Comprehension Exercises

## True / False / Not Given

1. Anna was the one who initially brought up the idea of eating Italian cuisine.
2. Ben did not find the idea of eating lasagna appealing.
3. The friends used a coin toss to decide whether they would eat Italian or Japanese food.
4. Ben preferred onigiri over miso soup.
5. Anna had never had ramen before.
6. Ben convinced Anna to try Japanese food by describing it as fresh.
7. The food festival provided a solution to Anna and Ben's problem of choosing a cuisine.
8. The food festival offered a variety of dishes, including pizza.
9. Anna and Ben only ate Italian food at the festival.
10. Anna and Ben concluded the evening with a mutual appreciation for the shared dining experience over the food itself.

## Multiple Choice

1. What motivated Anna and Ben's discussion about Italian and Japanese food?
  - A. They couldn't decide what to cook at home.
  - B. They were at a food festival deciding what to eat.
  - C. They were very hungry and looking for something to eat.
  - D. They wanted to cook something for a cultural festival.
2. What did Anna and Ben ultimately do about their food choice dilemma?
  - A. They left the city to find food elsewhere.
  - B. They chose to eat at an Italian restaurant.
  - C. They continued arguing about which food is better.
  - D. They ate both Italian and Japanese food at the festival.
3. What was the unexpected turn of events for Anna and Ben?
  - A. They bumped into an old friend at the food festival.
  - B. They got lost in the city and couldn't find any food.
  - C. They found out the festival had both Italian and Japanese food stalls.
  - D. They decided to skip the meal and go home.
4. What was Ben's favorite Japanese dish mentioned in the text?
  - A. Miso soup
  - B. Ramen
  - C. Onigiri
  - D. Sushi
5. Why were Anna and Ben happy about the food festival?
  - A. It was cheaper than a restaurant.
  - B. It offered a competition for the best dish.
  - C. It was an event they planned to attend for a long time.
  - D. It allowed them to try both cuisines without choosing one.
6. What conclusion did Anna and Ben reach after their experience at the festival?
  - A. Italian food is superior to Japanese food.
  - B. They would start their own food festival.
  - C. It is important to share a meal with a friend.
  - D. They should have chosen Italian food from the beginning.
7. How did Ben describe the Japanese dishes he wanted to try?
  - A. Expensive and exotic.
  - B. Warm, flavorful, and satisfying.
  - C. Cold and refreshing.
  - D. Difficult to find and prepare.
8. How did Anna and Ben's feelings change throughout the story?
  - A. From bored to excited.
  - B. From hungry to full.
  - C. From indecisive to content.
  - D. From sad to joyful.

9. What strategy did Anna and Ben use to resolve their food choice predicament?
- A. Drawing straws to make a random choice.
  - B. Asking a local for advice.
  - C. Making a list of reasons for their food preferences.
  - D. Flipping a coin.
10. What cultural elements do Anna and Ben's food choices represent?
- A. American and Chinese.
  - B. Italian and Japanese.
  - C. Mexican and French.
  - D. Indian and German.

## Short Answer

1. What made choosing between Italian and Japanese food difficult for Anna and Ben?
2. How did Anna and Ben resolve their indecision about what food to eat?
3. What was the unexpected turn of events that made Anna and Ben happy?
4. Why didn't Anna and Ben have to choose between Italian and Japanese food in the end?
5. What did Anna and Ben agree on at the end of the evening?
6. What lesson did Anna and Ben learn from their experience at the food festival?
7. What did Ben think about as he considered eating lasagna?
8. What Italian dish did Anna mention first?
9. What is Ben's favorite Japanese dish mentioned in the text?
10. What did Anna and Ben enjoy doing at the food festival aside from eating?

## Multiple Choice Cloze

Two friends, Anna and Ben, were walking through the city one evening. They were very \_\_\_1\_\_\_ and wanted to eat something tasty and different. Anna suggested that they should try some local food from Italy. She mentioned delicious dishes like \_\_\_2\_\_\_, a layered pasta meal, and risotto, a creamy rice dish. Ben's mouth \_\_\_3\_\_\_ as he thought about the warm, cheesy layers of lasagna.

However, Ben had another idea. He wanted to try some local Japanese food. He told Anna about the wonderful dishes like \_\_\_4\_\_\_ soup, a warm, flavorful broth, and onigiri, a rice ball with a tasty filling. His favorite was \_\_\_5\_\_\_, a noodle soup with various toppings. Anna imagined the steam rising from a hot bowl of ramen and the scent of miso soup. Both options sounded so \_\_\_6\_\_\_, and choosing one was difficult.

They decided to make a \_\_\_7\_\_\_ of it. They would each list the reasons they wanted to eat Italian or Japanese food. Anna spoke of the rich \_\_\_8\_\_\_ and the sweet taste of tomato in pizza. Ben countered with the freshness of sushi and the satisfying simplicity of onigiri. As they talked, they realized they were standing right in front of a food \_\_\_9\_\_\_.

To their surprise and joy, the festival had both Italian and Japanese food stalls. Their eyes \_\_\_10\_\_\_ up at the sight. They didn't have to choose one anymore! They could taste both lasagna and ramen, try a slice of pizza, and enjoy a bowl of miso soup. This unexpected turn of events made them both very happy. They spent the rest of the evening trying different dishes, smiling, and laughing at their good luck.

In the end, Anna and Ben agreed that all the food was delicious. They learned that it's not just the food that matters, but also the joy of sharing a meal with a good friend. This food festival was something they would remember for a long time.

- 1) A. hungry   B. excited   C. curious   D. tired
- 2) A. lasagna   B. spaghetti   C. bread   D. burger
- 3) A. watered   B. danced   C. sang   D. shook
- 4) A. tomato   B. chicken   C. miso   D. beef
- 5) A. sushi   B. ramen   C. tempura   D. udon
- 6) A. inviting   B. repulsive   C. confusing   D. boring



- 7) A. meal   B. decision   C. game   D. dance
- 8) A. sauces   B. salads   C. cookies   D. fruits
- 9) A. festival   B. party   C. meeting   D. concert
- 10) A. burned   B. lit   C. brightened   D. shone

# Exercise Answers

## True / False / Not Given Answers

### 1. True

Explanation: The text indicates that Anna is the one who initiates the idea of trying Italian local food.

("Anna suggested that they should try some local food from Italy.")

### 2. False

Explanation: The text explicitly says that Ben's mouth watered when thinking about lasagna, which implies he did find it appealing.

("Ben's mouth watered as he thought about the warm, cheesy layers of lasagna.")

### 3. False

Explanation: The text mentions that they played a game to list reasons for their choices but does not mention a coin toss.

("They decided to make a game of it. They would each list the reasons they wanted to eat Italian or Japanese food.")

### 4. Not Given

Explanation: The text does not state which Japanese dish Ben prefers over the other.

("N/A")

### 5. Not Given

Explanation: The text does not indicate whether Anna has had ramen in the past or not.

("N/A")

### 6. False

Explanation: The text does not state that Ben's description convinced Anna, only that he countered her points with descriptions of Japanese food.

("Ben countered with the freshness of sushi and the satisfying simplicity of onigiri.")

### 7. True

Explanation: The presence of both food stalls at the festival resolved their issue by no longer requiring them to choose one over the other.

("To their surprise and joy, the festival had both Italian and Japanese food stalls.")

### 8. True

Explanation: The text specifically lists pizza among the variety of dishes available at the food festival.

("They could taste both lasagna and ramen, try a slice of pizza, and enjoy a bowl of miso soup.")

### 9. False

Explanation: The text clearly states that they ate both Italian and Japanese dishes, not just Italian.

("They could taste both lasagna and ramen, try a slice of pizza, and enjoy a bowl of miso soup.")

### 10. True

Explanation: The text concludes with the lesson they learned about the importance of sharing the meal, which supports the given statement.

("In the end, Anna and Ben agreed that all the food was delicious. They learned that it's not just the food that matters, but also the joy of sharing a meal with a good friend.")

## Multiple Choice Answers

### 1. C

Explanation: The text states that they were very hungry, prompting a discussion on food choices, not because they were at a festival or undecided about cooking.

("They were very hungry and wanted to eat something tasty and different.")

### 2. D

Explanation: Anna and Ben ended up eating both Italian and Japanese foods at the festival, which resolved their dilemma.

("They didn't have to choose one anymore! They could taste both lasagna and ramen, try a slice of pizza, and enjoy a bowl of miso soup.")

### 3. C

Explanation: The unexpected event was discovering that the food festival offered a variety of both Italian and Japanese foods.

("To their surprise and joy, the festival had both Italian and Japanese food stalls.")

### 4. B

Explanation: Ben explicitly mentions that his favorite Japanese dish is ramen.

("His favorite was ramen, a noodle soup with various toppings.")

### 5. D

Explanation: The happiness stemmed from the ability to enjoy both Italian and Japanese dishes at the festival, not from any other reason mentioned.

("They didn't have to choose one anymore! They could taste both lasagna and ramen, try a slice of pizza, and enjoy a bowl of miso soup.")

### 6. C

Explanation: The text indicates that sharing a meal with a good friend was the significant aspect of their experience, not the superiority of any cuisine.

("In the end, Anna and Ben agreed that all the food was delicious. They learned that it's not just the food that matters, but also the joy of sharing a meal with a good friend.")

### 7. B

Explanation: Ben's description of Japanese dishes emphasized their warm, flavorful, and satisfying qualities.

("He told Anna about the wonderful dishes like miso soup, a warm, flavorful broth, and onigiri, a rice ball with a tasty filling.")

### 8. C

Explanation: The text indicates a shift from indecision about which food to eat to contentment at being able to enjoy all options.

("Both options sounded so inviting, and choosing one was difficult... This unexpected turn of events made them both very happy.")

**9. C**

Explanation: The text describes them listing reasons for their preferences so as to decide between Italian or Japanese food.

("They would each list the reasons they wanted to eat Italian or Japanese food.")

**10. B**

Explanation: Anna and Ben discuss eating Italian and Japanese food, representing the cultures of Italy and Japan respectively.

("Anna suggested that they should try some local food from Italy... He wanted to try some local Japanese food.")

## Short Answer Answers

**1. Both options sounded so inviting.**

Explanation: The text indicates that the inviting nature of both food options made it hard to choose between them.

("Both options sounded so inviting, and choosing one was difficult.")

**2. They made a game of listing reasons for eating Italian or Japanese food.**

Explanation: The text describes that they turned their decision-making into a game to list reasons for their preferred choice.

("They decided to make a game of it. They would each list the reasons they wanted to eat Italian or Japanese food.")

**3. The festival had both Italian and Japanese food stalls.**

Explanation: The text mentions that finding both types of food stalls at the festival was unexpected and made them happy.

("To their surprise and joy, the festival had both Italian and Japanese food stalls.")

**4. They could taste both at the food festival.**

Explanation: The presence of both Italian and Japanese food stalls at the festival meant they could try foods from both cuisines.

("They didn't have to choose one anymore! They could taste both lasagna and ramen, try a slice of pizza, and enjoy a bowl of miso soup.")

**5. All the food was delicious.**

Explanation: The conclusion they reached was that they enjoyed all the food they tried.

("In the end, Anna and Ben agreed that all the food was delicious.")

**6. It's not just the food that matters, but also the joy of sharing a meal with a friend.**

Explanation: The text explicitly states the lesson they learned about the importance of companionship during a meal.

("They learned that it's not just the food that matters, but also the joy of sharing a meal with a good friend.")

**7. The warm, cheesy layers of lasagna.**

Explanation: The text describes Ben's thoughts about lasagna that made his mouth water.

("Ben's mouth watered as he thought about the warm, cheesy layers of lasagna.")

**8. Lasagna.**

Explanation: Lasagna is the first Italian dish mentioned by Anna in the list.

("She mentioned delicious dishes like lasagna, a layered pasta meal, and risotto, a creamy rice dish.")

**9. Ramen.**

Explanation: The text indicates that ramen is Ben's favorite Japanese dish.

("His favorite was ramen, a noodle soup with various toppings.")

**10. Smiling and laughing.**

Explanation: Apart from trying different dishes, the text states they spent time smiling and laughing.

("They spent the rest of the evening trying different dishes, smiling, and laughing at their good luck.")

## Multiple Choice Cloze Answers

**1. A**

Explanation: 'Hungry' fits the context as it describes their need for food.

**2. A**

Explanation: The correct answer is 'lasagna' as mentioned in the text.

**3. A**

Explanation: 'Watered' is used to describe the reaction of someone's mouth when they think about tasty food.

**4. C**

Explanation: 'Miso' is the correct type of soup mentioned in the context of Japanese food.

**5. B**

Explanation: 'Ramen' is the correct Japanese noodle soup that Ben favored.

**6. A**

Explanation: 'Inviting' suggest both options were appealing, fitting the context.

**7. C**

Explanation: They made a 'game' out of deciding which food to eat.

**8. A**

Explanation: The context talks about Italian food, thus 'sauces' is the correct answer.

**9. A**

Explanation: They were at a 'festival' featuring food stalls.

**10. B**

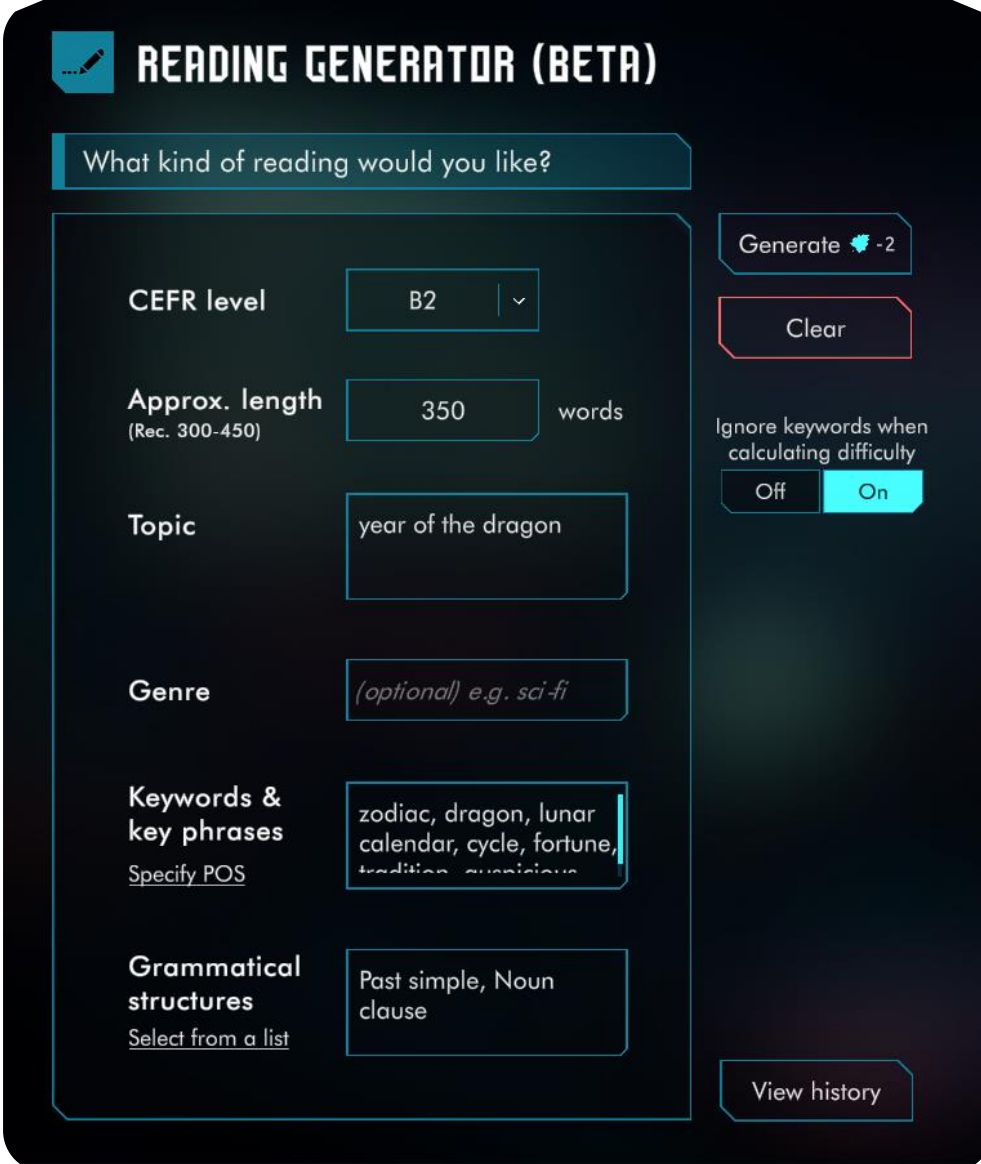
Explanation: 'Lit' is the phrase used in the text, meaning their eyes showed happiness.

## How to create your own reading lesson?

It's as simple as providing Cathoven with:

- the reading level
- the length of the reading
- the topic
- the vocabulary to study

And you're done. It will be automatically generated.



**READING GENERATOR (BETA)**

What kind of reading would you like?

**CEFR level**

**Approx. length**  words  
(Rec. 300-450)

**Topic**

**Genre**

**Keywords & key phrases**   
Specify POS

**Grammatical structures**   
Select from a list

**Generate** 🔥 -2

**Clear**

Ignore keywords when calculating difficulty  
 Off  On

**View history**