

Food Idioms and Vocabulary

to **grab a bite to eat (i)**

to go out to eat

Do you want to grab a bite to eat before we see the movie?

it's on someone (i)

paying for a meal/movie etc. for someone else

Don't worry about paying for dinner. It's on me.

to **treat** someone (i)

to pay for a meal/movie etc. for someone else

You don't need to bring any money with you tonight. I'll treat you.

to **go Dutch (i)**

to split the cost of a meal

We've been dating for a long time, so we usually go Dutch.

to **cover** someone's **half (i)**

to pay for someone

I still owe you 20 dollars, so I'll cover your half and we'll be even.

whatever one's **heart desires (i)**

anything you want

His parents are so rich that he can have whatever his heart desires.

to be **starving / famished (i)**

to be really hungry

I need to eat something. I'm starving.

to be **so hungry** one **could eat a horse (i)**

to be really hungry

I haven't had time to eat yet. I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.

to **pig out (i)**

to eat too much

If you keep pigging out all the time, you are going to get really fat.

an **appetizer (n)**

food before the main course

Do you want to share the calamari for an appetizer?

an **entree (n)**

main course

Pasta is my favorite entree.

the **house specialty (n)**

the dish a restaurant specializes in

Their chef is from Japan, so the house specialty is Ahi Tuna.

to be **out of this world (i)**

to be really amazing.

This chocolate cake is out of this world.

to be **mouth watering (i)**

to be really delicious

Wow! Whatever you are cooking smells mouth watering.

to **start (v)**

as an appetizer

Do you want to share the nachos to start?

to **wash something down (i)**

to drink something to help you swallow food; to drink a lot while eating

I need another beer to wash down all the hamburgers I ate.

to be **tasty (adj)**

to be delicious

The soup that you made for dinner was really tasty.

one's **eyes are bigger than** one's **stomach (i)**

an expression used when somebody wants more food than they can eat

You can't eat all that. I think your eyes are bigger than your stomach.

to **skip a meal (i)**

to miss a meal

I skipped breakfast today, so I'm really hungry.

a **doggie bag (i)**

the bag that leftovers from a restaurant meal are put in, so you can take the food home with you
I couldn't finish my meal, so I took it home in a doggie bag.

leftovers (n)

food from a previous meal that you eat later

We are having leftovers for dinner tonight.

Dialogue:

Mike: Thanks for inviting me out today. I was feeling kind of sad. There's nothing better than **grabbing a bite to eat** with a good friend to make you feel better.

Shaun: No problem. It's for your birthday, so it's **on** me.

Mike: Oh, I thought no one remembered, but you don't have to **treat** me. We can **go Dutch**. Don't feel you have to **cover** my **half** just because it's my birthday.

Shaun: Forget about it. I've got it covered. Order **whatever** your **heart desires**.

Mike: Great, because I'm **starving**. I'm **so hungry** I **could eat a horse**. It's time to **pig out**. Do you know what you're going to have?

Shaun: I'm going to have the shrimp cocktail for an **appetizer**, and a medium-rare steak for my **entree**. It's the **house specialty**, and I hear it's **out of this world**.

Mike: Wow! There are a lot of **mouth watering** choices on this menu. Let's see. I think I'll go with the caviar **to start** and the seafood platter for two as my main course. Like I said, I'm **famished**.

Shaun: Man, it's going to be pretty hard to eat all that.

Mike: You're right. It would be pretty hard to eat all that without something to drink. I think I'll order a bottle of their finest wine to **wash down** all that **tasty** food.

Shaun: I think your **eyes might be bigger than** your **stomach**.

Mike: Yeah, I might have to **skip** breakfast tomorrow. But I can always take a **doggie bag**, so I can have **leftovers** for lunch and dinner tomorrow.

Shaun: Well, I might have to skip a few meals after paying this bill.

What comes next: Match the first person's comment (1-9) to the right response (a-i)

1. Where do you want to go for lunch?
2. I'm totally starving.
3. Do you want to go for drinks after work? It's on me.
4. I have never been so full in my life.
5. What are you going to have for your entree?
6. Are you going to get anything to start?
7. Do you think we should get a doggie bag?
8. Would you like something to wash down your meal with?
9. How are things going with your new boyfriend?

A) I'm not surprised. You totally pigged out. I think your eyes were bigger than your stomach, although your stomach looks pretty big right now.

B) I think I'm going to give the house specialty a try.

C) I don't think so. If I have an appetizer, I probably won't be able to finish my main course.

D) No. I don't like leftovers.

E) Sounds like a good idea, but you are always treating me. This time I'm going to treat you and cover your half.

F) I'm not so sure about him. You know last night we went out for dinner for our one-month anniversary. He told me to order whatever my heart desired, but when the bill came he wanted to go Dutch.

G) Yes. I'll have a large orange juice.

H) How about we grab a bite to eat at that new cafe around the corner. I hear their sandwiches are out of this world.

I) Me too. I'm famished. I'm so hungry that I could eat a horse.

Discussion:

1. When do you usually pig out?
3. What is a dish that you think is out of this world?
4. Do you ever skip meals? Which ones?
5. Do people in your country take home doggie bags? Why or why not?
6. Have your eyes ever been bigger than your stomach?
7. What is the house specialty at your favorite restaurant?