Menus Without Pictures

C1 Advanced · Food · about 2 min of audio

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Name _____ Date _____

Part 1 — Fill the gaps while you listen

1. A menu without _____ does not necessarily conceal the food, since it can restore attention to the words that describe it.
2. At a busy noodle counter, diners once ordered by matching glossy images, then _____ when steaming bowls refused to resemble them.
3. The _____ had quietly made appearance the contract, although broth, aroma, and temperature mattered more to the meal.
4. Written _____ ask for a different kind of confidence, grounded in ingredients, technique, and the cook's judgment rather than studio lighting.
5. Admittedly, pictures help newcomers decode unfamiliar dishes, especially when names cross languages or menus offer no useful _____.
6. But that is an argument for clearer _____, not for turning every plate into a promise of identical composition.
7. A concise note about toasted rice or sour plum gives diners clues that a _____ cannot convey.
8. It also leaves the kitchen room to adjust garnish when herbs arrive smaller or _____ than expected.
9. _____ still matters, yet it need not mean freezing a meal into one fixed arrangement.
10. The most honest menu may _____ show less, while telling the diner more about what will actually arrive.

Part 2 — Write every sentence you hear

1. _____

2. _____

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Answer key

Part 1 — the missing words

1. photographs 2. complained 3. photographs 4. descriptions 5. explanation 6. descriptions 7. photograph 8. stronger 9. Consistency 10. therefore

Part 2 — the full transcript

1. A menu without photographs does not necessarily conceal the food, since it can restore attention to the words that describe it.
2. At a busy noodle counter, diners once ordered by matching glossy images, then complained when steaming bowls refused to resemble them.
3. The photographs had quietly made appearance the contract, although broth, aroma, and temperature mattered more to the meal.
4. Written descriptions ask for a different kind of confidence, grounded in ingredients, technique, and the cook's judgment rather than studio lighting.
5. Admittedly, pictures help newcomers decode unfamiliar dishes, especially when names cross languages or menus offer no useful explanation.
6. But that is an argument for clearer descriptions, not for turning every plate into a promise of identical composition.
7. A concise note about toasted rice or sour plum gives diners clues that a photograph cannot convey.
8. It also leaves the kitchen room to adjust garnish when herbs arrive smaller or stronger than expected.
9. Consistency still matters, yet it need not mean freezing a meal into one fixed arrangement.
10. The most honest menu may therefore show less, while telling the diner more about what will actually arrive.

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