# The Labor Menu

C1 Advanced · Food · about 2 min of audio

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Name _____ Date _____

## Part 1 — Fill the gaps while you listen

1. Imagine a bakery _____ each loaf not by flavor, but by the minutes of attention it had consumed.
2. The _____ might seem less like a product than a schedule of patient decisions, visible in its blistered crust and uneven rise.
3. A hurried shopper could still choose sweetness, yet would also glimpse the labor hidden behind its apparent _____.
4. Now imagine those minutes printed beside every café meal, even when _____ happened hours before the first order.
5. The menu would not _____ make diners more grateful, but it might alter what they considered expensive.
6. A plain soup, simmered slowly from bruised _____, could command more respect than an elaborate plate assembled quickly.
7. Conversely, a _____ impressive dessert might lose some glamour once its disposable components became visible.
8. Such accounting would be imperfect, since care resists _____ and one cook's quick instinct may represent years of practice.
9. Still, the exercise exposes how price often rewards scarcity and _____ while leaving sustained attention almost unpriced.
10. We call a meal simple when its _____ has been absorbed by someone else's hands.
11. Put the work back on the menu, and _____ becomes a way of seeing, not merely choosing.

## Part 2 — Write every sentence you hear

1. _____

_____

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

# Answer key

## Part 1 — the missing words

1. displayed 2. sourdough 3. simplicity 4. preparation 5. necessarily 6. vegetables 7. technically 8. measurement 9. presentation 10. complexity 11. appetite

## Part 2 — the full transcript

1. Imagine a bakery displayed each loaf not by flavor, but by the minutes of attention it had consumed.
2. The sourdough might seem less like a product than a schedule of patient decisions, visible in its blistered crust and uneven rise.
3. A hurried shopper could still choose sweetness, yet would also glimpse the labor hidden behind its apparent simplicity.
4. Now imagine those minutes printed beside every café meal, even when preparation happened hours before the first order.
5. The menu would not necessarily make diners more grateful, but it might alter what they considered expensive.
6. A plain soup, simmered slowly from bruised vegetables, could command more respect than an elaborate plate assembled quickly.
7. Conversely, a technically impressive dessert might lose some glamour once its disposable components became visible.
8. Such accounting would be imperfect, since care resists measurement and one cook's quick instinct may represent years of practice.
9. Still, the exercise exposes how price often rewards scarcity and presentation while leaving sustained attention almost unpriced.
10. We call a meal simple when its complexity has been absorbed by someone else's hands.
11. Put the work back on the menu, and appetite becomes a way of seeing, not merely choosing.

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