

4.2 The luncheon

WARMING UP!

1. Talk with your partner and discuss the following questions with the help of given points:

(1) Have you ever been invited for a lunch to any hotel by your friend?

Ans. (You can think of the name of the hotel, what you are there, what you saw there, etc.)

(2) What was the occasion?

Ans. (Was it for a birthday, a celebration of some sort, a get-together, etc.)

(3) Did you enjoy the lunch? Why?

Ans. (Was the food good/bad, was the service good/bad, was the place clean/unclean/noisy, etc.)

2. Discuss to pairs.

1. People with foibles are not often conscious of them. Do you agree or disagree? Why? (Foible-A slight peculiarity or minor weakness in a person's character. An example is given below.)

Ans. I agree with this. My grandmother has a foible that we all know about, but she is not conscious of it. When the house is untidy, she gets irritated. She will tuck in the edge of her sari and walk about the house, muttering to herself. She is not even aware of this peculiar behaviour.

3. As you know, every country has its own currency. Find out the currency of at least 6 countries along with their exchange rate in India, with the help of the internet. One is done for you.

For example, Switzerland: franc; 1 franc = 66.73 INR.

Ans. (Students can search the internet for the currencies and exchange rates.)

ENGLISH WORKSHOP

1. Choose the correct option from the bracket and fill in the blanks given below.
(addressed, luncheon, generously, unwise, insist)

(a) The chief guest **addressed** the students.

Ans. Addressed

(b) The crow was **unwise** to sing

Ans. Unwise

(c) I **insisted** my relatives to

Ans. Luncheon

(d) Parents **insist** on children to be allrounders.

Ans. Insist

(e) The king decided to **generously** donate his wealth among his subjects

Ans. Generously



2. Go through the story again and find out various instances which create humour in 'The Luncheon'. Complete the table by picking various humorous instances and the particular line from the story. One is done for you.

Ans.

Humorous instance	Line from the passage
1. The woman had huge teeth.	1. She gave me the impression of more teeth, white and large and having than even, were necessary for any practical purpose.
2. The author ordered a single mutton chop.	2. (i) "I see you're in the habit of eating a heavy luncheon." (ii) "Why don't you follow my example and eat just one thing?"
3. The woman wanted to eat asparagus.	3. (i) "I couldn't possibly eat anything more unless they had some of those giant asparagus. I should be sorry to leave Paris without eating some of them." (ii) "I'm not in the least hungry, but if you insist, I don't mind having some asparagus."
4. The writer was afraid that he would not have enough money to pay the bill	4. I would put my hand in my pocket and with a dramatic cry, start up and say that it had been picked.
5. She ate the asparagus greedily.	5. I watched her thrust them down her throat in large mouthfuls.
6. She had eaten heartily	6. (i) One should always get up from a meal feeling one could eat a little more. (ii) "Are you still hungry?" I asked faintly.

3. Who said these words/sentences? Under what circumstances?

Ans.

Words/Sentences.	Who said?	Under what circumstances?
1. I never eat anything for luncheon.	Guest	Do not make writer nervous



2. It's many years since we first met.	Guest	When the writer was startled on seeing the prices on the menu
3. Are you still hungry?	Author	When the guest salad that one should get up from a meal feeling that one could eat a little more, and she had already eaten quite a lot.
4. I don't believe in overloading my stomach	Guest	When the writer ordered a mutton chop for himself.
5. I'll eat nothing for dinner tonight.	Author	When the luncheon was over and they were leaving the hotel, he knew that he had the whole month before him and he did not have any money for food. That was when he said the words.

4. Answer in your own words.

(a) Although the author was not a vindictive man, he was very happy to see her twenty one years ago, and days had finally had his revenge, What makes him say this explain.

Ans. Twenty years earlier, the writer was earning barely enough money to make both ends meet. The lady wanted him to give her luncheon at Foyot's, an expensive restaurant. The writer thought that he could stand her a modest luncheon. The lady reassured him by saying that she never ate anything for luncheon'. However, she ended by eating about six things, some of which were very expensive; yet she insisted till the end that she never ate more than one thing for luncheon and advised him against 'filling his stomach with a lot of meat' when all he had eaten was one small mutton chop. The writer was finally left with a whole month before him and no money in his pocket. He could not forget this incident, and when he met her twenty years later, she had become very fat and weighed 21 stone. This made the writer feel that though he was not a vindictive man, he had got his revenge.

(2) There are quite a few places where the writer has used the expressions 'my heart sank 'panic seized me', etc. What was the reason for this? Explain.

Ans. The writer was living in a tiny apartment in Paris and earning barely enough money to make both ends meet. The lady wanted him to give her luncheon at Foyot's, an expensive restaurant. When they met, she ordered some of the most expensive dishes available. The writer was terribly worried about whether he had enough money to pay the bill. Hence, he has used the expressions 'my heart sank', 'panic seized me', etc.



(c)What are the instances which create humour in 'The Luncheon'?

Ans. The instances in the story that create humour are: (i) when the writer sees the woman at Foyot's

(ii) when she orders dish after dish, after first saying that she eats nothing for luncheon, and then insisting that she ate only one thing for luncheon.

(iii) when she tells the writer, who is dating only a mutton chop, that he should not overload his stomach.

(iv) when she says that the writer has insisted on her eating asparagus.

(v) when the writer imagines what he would do while paying the bill.

(vi) when the writer says that he would not eat anything for dinner that night.

(vii) when the writer tells us the woman's weight, when he sees her again after twenty years.

(d) Describe the use of irony and humour in The Luncheon'.

Ans. In this story, the writer uses humour and irony to depict the character of the woman. The narrator takes the woman to an expensive restaurant called Foyot's. He is startled when he sees the high prices on the menu, but relieved when his guest tells him, "I never eat anything for luncheon," and "I never eat more than one thing." After stating this, ironically the woman eats some of the most expensive things available, like salmon and caviar, while the poor author only eats a mutton chop. Looking at it, she takes him to task for eating a 'heavy luncheon, and tells him that he should follow her example and never eat more than one thing for luncheon. She said that she would eat the asparagus because the writer 'insists', when it was she who had asked for them. In the end, when she repeats once again that he should follow her example and never eat more than one thing for luncheon, the writer retorts that he would do better than that-he would not eat anything for dinner that night.

5. Pick out the words and phrases in the story that indicate that the author was not financially well off. One is done for you. (To see the diageram layout refer Pg.155 of text Book)

Ans. Words: afford, modest, cheapest, borrow, mean.

Phrases: beyond my means, earning barely

enough money, manage well enough, prices were a great deal higher, horribly expensive, ten francs short, what they cost, inadequate tip, not a penny in my pocket, eat nothing for dinner.

6. After reading the story, put the following events into correct order

(a) She gave me her last kind advice how to improve my eat habits.

(b) I met her in the theatre after many years and I could hardly recognize her.

(c) Twenty years ago, I lived in Paris and earned just enough money to get by.

(d) I was really scared what could happen when I would pay the bill.

(e) "I never eat anything for luncheon."

(f) I ordered a mutton chop for myself.

(g) She had read a book of mine,

(h) She ordered asparagus.

(i) I invited her to a famous and expensive restaurant.

(j) I didn't have dinner for the rest of the month.



- Ans.** 1. I met her in the theatre after many years and I could hardly recognize her.
 2. Twenty years ago, I lived in Paris and earned just enough money to get by.
 3. She had read a book of mine,
 4. I invited her to a famous and expensive restaurant.
 5. "I never eat anything for luncheon."
 6. I ordered a mutton chop for myself.
 7. She ordered asparagus.
 8. I was really scared what could happen when I would pay the bill.
 9. She gave me her last kind advice how to improve my eat habits.
 10. I didn't have dinner for the rest of the month.

7. Irony is the expression of meaning through the use of language signifying the opposite. Describe the use of irony in 'The Luncheon'. Pick the sentences from the story that are examples of irony. Fill in the table A' the general direct meaning while in table B' it's hidden meaning or the opposite meaning intended by the speaker. One is done for you.

Ans.

Sentence	Direct Meaning
(1) I never eat more than one thing	1. I am careful and do not eat much; I eat only one thing.
(2) I don't believe in overloading my stomach.	2. I do not eat much, but in limited quantities.
(3) If you insist, I don't mind having some asparagus.	3. I am eating asparagus because you are forcing me to.
(4) I'm not in the least hungry.	4. I am not at all hungry and cannot eat anything
(5) One thing I thoroughly believe in-one should get up from a meal feeling one could eat a little more.	5. One should always leave space in the stomach for more food.
(6) I have a cup of coffee in the morning and then dinner, but I never eat more than one thing for luncheon. I've just had a snack.	6. I am a very light eater; I hardly eat anything during the day.
(7) You've filled your stomach with a lot of meat.	7. You have eaten a lot.
(8) I'll eat nothing for dinner tonight	8. Won't have anything for dinner tonight.

(Table continued here)

Irony



1. She goes on to eat six expensive items during the luncheon.
2. She has a hearty and expensive meal.
3. The writer had certainly not insisted: she had asked for it.
4. She thrusts the asparagus down her throat in large mouthfuls.
5. She has had a hearty meal and was probably very full.
6. She has had six things for luncheon.
7. The writer had just one little miserable mutton chop.
8. The writer had no money left.

8. Fill in the blank a word or phrases given in the brackets in their appropriate forms.

1. "I never my stomach", she said.

Ans. Overload

2. I was when the menu was brought.

Ans. Startle

3. The author the guest at the play.

Ans. Catch sight of

4. I had seen asparagus in the shops, my mouth often at the sight of them

Ans. Water

5. The author's guest was through Paris.

Ans. Pass

9. Use appropriate articles.

1. I have just had snack.

Ans. a

2. I have cup of coffee in the morning.

Ans. a

3. I want just ice cream and coffee.

Ans. an

4. Author and his guest gave order and then waited for asparagus to cooked.

Ans. The, the

10. Classify the following words in the given table appropriately.

Ans.

	Verb
Noun	

luncheon, restaurant, appearance, watch, coffee, apartment, moment	brought, afford, started, sank
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(Table continued here)

Adjective	Adverb
modest, large, expensive, practical,	generously, brightly, thoroughly

11. Study the different uses of 'could'. Identify what it indicates.

(a) Lack of rain could cause draught. (possibility/condition)

Ans. Possibility

(b) Abhi could perform well in his school days. (suggestion/past ability)

Ans. Past ability

(c) Instead of playing computer games you could play real games with friends. (past ability/suggestion)

Ans. suggestion

(d) Could I use your computer for surfing net? (possibility/request)

Ans. Request

(e) We could go on an excursion, if we didn't have exam. (suggestion/condition)

Ans. Condition

12. Fill in the gaps appropriate preposition to make the passage meaningful.

I waited at the airport in Atlanta. My old in the blanks with school-mate was going to arrive by New Airlines from Mumbai, on the 21st of March in the year 2018. We had not met for 40 years, since 1978. She was going to stay for a week with me in Atlanta, from the 21st to 27th of March, 2018

My joy knew no bounds when I saw her after 40 years. At home, I introduced her to my family. Then I took her to a big mall for shopping. It was just near my house. We went along the street and climbed up using the elevator near the staircase.

13. On the occasion of Diwali, write a letter to your friend to invite him/her over for lunch. Use the following hints:

(a) time and place

(b) other friends are also invited

(c) special dish is prepared

(d) post-lunch fun programmes



Ans.

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21st October, 2019

Dear Diya,

Hi there! How are you? You seem to have forgotten me completely after joining college! Well, I haven't, and I am writing this letter for a special reason. This is an invitation for lunch at my place on 4 November on the occasion of Diwali. This will be a sort of house-warming too you can see from the address above that I have shifted to a new place. I have also called our other badminton friends-Divya. Rajni. Shubha and Kirti. My Mom has promised to prepare traditional Diwali dishes, which I am sure you will enjoy. And after that well, that's going to be a surprise! But I am sure all of us will enjoy this too So do come. Come at about 12.30. Be prepared to be here till 5. Bye Your friend Manju

14. Further reading:

(a) "The Phantom Luncheon" by Saki.

(b) "The Art and the Grasshopper" by William Somerset Maugham

Form 4 groups of the class. Every group will visit the school's library or use internet to read both the creations of Saki and W. S. Maugham. After reading them, every group will summarise both the creations and later read out in the class.

Ans. Students Do it your own

