

1.

You and your friends are settling into your seats. The new Spider-Man movie is about to start and you've got the snacks: soda and popcorn. Food is part of what makes the movies fun.

Just as the lights go out, you catch a slight smell of ... tuna fish? You turn your head, searching for the source. Then you spot him: A couple rows back, some guy is enjoying a tuna fish sandwich. How'd he get that in here? You wonder. Then you remember how much you paid for your snacks.

What invites the unwelcome outside food is probably the price. Why pay \$ 5 for a bag of M&Ms when you can get them for a dollar at the corner store?

Earlier this year, a Michigan man decided to fight for his right to snack. Joshua Thompson is suing his local theater after it banned outside food. He argues the ban breaks a Michigan law that prevents businesses from charging extremely high prices. However, most legal experts believe Thompson has little chance of winning his case, though he does have a point: 85 cents out of a dollar of treats a movie theater sells is pure profit.

The truth is that movie theaters are more in the snack business than the movie business. A huge part of the ticket income goes to the Hollywood studio. This makes sense, since the studios have to pay the costs of movie production and advertising. But that often doesn't leave much cash for the theater, which also has its own running costs. If customers stopped buying food, owners would have to raise ticket prices even higher.

Of course, there's another reason to think twice before bringing food into the movies: It's against the rules. Breaking those rules can have unpleasant consequences too. Some theaters will kick you out if they catch you. Even without the threat of punishment, we should follow rules all the time-----out of respect.

Here's a good idea: Eat before the movie.

21. What is the topic of the text?

- A. Movie Theaters' Ban on Outside Food.
- B. A Michigan Man's Fight for His Right.
- C. The Pleasure of Enjoying Snacks.
- D. Bad Manners in Movie Theaters.

22. What do we know about Joshua Thompson?

- A. He broke a Michigan law.
- B. He was forbidden to have snacks at the theaters.
- C. He thinks cinema tickets are too expensive.
- D. He is likely to lose the case.

23. In Paragraph 5, the author mainly explains \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. how movie studios work with movie theaters
- B. why snack sales are important to movie theaters
- C. why Hollywood studios must pay high costs
- D. how movie theaters reduce their operating costs

24. How does the author feel about bringing outside food into the cinema?

- A. It is great fun.
- B. It is convenient.
- C. It is unacceptable.
- D. It is lawful.

2.

English is the most widely used language in the history of our planet. One in every seven human beings can speak it. More than half of the world's books and three quarters of international mail are in English. Of all languages, English has the largest vocabulary — perhaps as many as two million words.

However, let's face it: English is a crazy language. There is no egg in an eggplant, neither pine nor apple in a pineapple and no ham in a hamburger. Sweetmeats are candy, while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

We take English for granted. But when we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square, public bathrooms have no baths in them.

And why is it that a writer writes, but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce, and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, shouldn't the plural of booth be beeth? One goose, two geese — so one moose, two meese?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? How can overlook and oversee be opposites, while quite a lot and quite a few are alike? How can the weather be hot as hell one day and cold as hell the next?

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of human beings. That's why, when stars are out, they are visible; but when the lights are out, they are invisible. And why, when I wind up my watch, I start it; but when I wind up this essay, I end it.