

# Unit 3

## Food Adulteration

### Objectives

After the completion of this unit, you will–

- develop comprehensive reading.
- learn vocabulary and uses.
- write paragraphs based on themes.

### Overview

Lesson 1: Food Adulteration Reaches New Height

Lesson 2: Eating Habit and Hazards

### Answer Key

## Lesson 1 : Food Adulteration Reaches New Height

### 1. Look at the picture and read the following questions



*Tangail district administration destroys a truckload of mangoes at Tangail bypass area labelling them formalin tainted.*

- What is food adulteration?
- Have you heard the name of a pesticide called formalin which is used as a preservative?
- Who, do you think, uses chemical pesticides on food, fruits?



### 2. Read the following feature item published in a Dhaka daily.

Unsafe levels of pesticides are present in around half of the vegetables and more than a quarter of fruits sold in the capital's markets, a recent survey has found. A 15-member team of the National Food Safety Laboratory, with support from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), came up with the findings after collecting and testing food samples from the capital's Gulshan, Karwanbazar and Mohakhali markets.

The survey report, a copy of which was acquired by the Dhaka Tribune, read that nearly 40% of 82 samples of milk, milk products, fish, fruits and vegetables contained banned pesticides such as DDT,- Aldrin, Chlordane and Heptachlor. The amounts of pesticide in these samples were found to be 3 to 20 times greater than the limits set by the European Union. Around 50% vegetables and 35% fruits were found to be contaminated with unsafe level of pesticides.

Analysing more than 30 samples of turmeric powder (branded, packaged and open), the team also found that nearly 30% of the samples contained traces of lead chromate, which can be fatal if swallowed or inhaled. These samples also contained lead at 20 to 50 times above the safety limit of 2.5 parts per million set by the Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute (BSTI). Arsenic and chromium above safety limits were detected in a total of 5 out of 13 rice samples.

Using a sensitive High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) method developed by the Food Safety Lab, 66 samples were analysed for the presence of formaldehyde. Adulteration was thereby detected in samples of coriander, mango and fresh shrimps.

The tests indicated that poultry feed in the country had also been contaminated, as samples of chicken and fish contained traces of antibiotics. High microbial populations were found in several samples of pasteurised milk, indicating poor processing procedures by the manufacturers. Samples of cucumber and street foods also showed high microbial populations, suggesting widespread contamination in the water supply. The Director of Institute of Public Health (IPH), told the Dhaka Tribune that the survey report has been submitted to the Health Ministry. Further tests of different products were being carried out at the Food Safety Lab.

A former Director General of the Health Services and senior national adviser of the FAO, said the findings were shocking for the whole nation. He added that instead of focusing only on the end products, the issue should be addressed at the root level. Pointing out that there were four steps in the production process-farmer, transport, wholesale, and retail trader, -he said better monitoring and supervision were mandatory for stopping food adulteration.

Adulterated food products are reportedly the cause behind thousands of people suffering from fatal diseases like cancer, kidney failure and heart problems. Health specialists told the Dhaka Tribune that the Ministry of Food had enacted a Food Safety Act, but was yet to prepare the necessary rules. As the issue of food safety was also linked to 14 other ministries, a coordinated agency should take responsibility of ensuring safety in food products, they added.

*[Adapted from a news published in Dhaka Tribune]*



### 3. Choose the right answers:

- a. What percentages of the milk samples contained pesticide?  
i. 60 ii. 45 iii. 40 iv. 50
- b. How did the scientists realize that the water supply was contaminated?  
i. because of microbial presence  
ii. from the color of the water  
iii. from an analysis of the mineral content  
iv. through chemical test
- c. Why were microbial populations present in pasteurised milk?  
i. because of widespread contamination in the water cows drink  
ii. because of the formaldehyde content in the milk  
iii. because of poor processing of the milk  
iv. all of the above  
d. The amounts of pesticide in local food samples are \_ times greater than the limits set by the European Union.  
i. 3 ii. 20 iii. 3-32 iv. 60
- e. How many ministries are concerned with the food safety issue?  
i. 10 ii. 15 iii. 1 iv. 14
- f. Turmeric powder was contaminated by  
i. useful level of DDT. ii. unsafe level of Aldrin . iii banned pesticides. iv. Lead Chromate
- g. The word “safety” means

- i. Security ii Danger iii. peril iv. impure
- h. Banned Pesticides Contaminate.
- i. Only Milk and Milk Products. ii Only Fish & Fruits iii. Only vegetables & turmeric  
iv. milk, milk products, fish, fruits & vegetables

**4. Answer the following questions:**

- a) Which foods contained banned Pesticides?
- b) From which markets Were Food Samples Collected for testing?
- c) How did the Scientists realize that the water supply was contaminated?
- d) What does ‘new height’ refer to in the title of the news report?
- e. What confirms that even our poultry products are contaminated?
- f. What is the health risks related to adulterated food?
- g. What is the current state of the Food Safety Act?

**5. Read the text below and fill in the gaps with suitable words from the text.**

The contracted form of Food and Agriculture is (a) ----- . Again, FAO is (b) -----  
--- concern of the UNO. Under the supervision (c) ----- FAO, food testing  
operation is launched many times in many countries. The aim of launching (d) -----  
- is to detect pesticide in food (e) ----- . In recent times, it has been (f) -----  
----- that many samples of turmeric powder are (g) ----- by lead  
chromate, a (h) ----- substance for human body. The appearance of excess (i) -----  
----- and chromium in rice is an alarming report for us. However (j) -----in food  
must be checked anyhow.

**6. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily pointing out the problems of food adulteration in your locality. Or, write a response to this news item published in the Dhaka Tribune.**

**7. Match the words in Column A with their meanings in Column B in the box below:**

Column A	Column B
i. pasteurised	a. pertaining to, or characteristic of a microbe
ii. banned	b. made impure by contact or mixture with something unclean
iii. contaminated	c. the process of heating (milk) to a high temperature and then quickly cooling it before bottling or packaging to make it free from bacteria
iv. populations	d. compulsory
v. end product	e. which is produced as the final result of an activity or process
vi. mandatory	f. prohibited
vii. microbial	g. organisms of the same group or species

## Lesson 2 : Eating Habit and Hazards

1. Look at the picture before reading the following questions and check if the story helps you to answer them.

- a. What is a balanced diet? Why do we need to take a balanced diet?
- b. Why do some people become overweight?



2. Now read the story and answer the questions that follow.

The story, “The Luncheon,” is written by William Somerset Maugham (1874-1965). Maugham was a British novelist, playwright and short story writer whose work is characterized by a clear, lucid style, and a profound understanding of human nature. “The Luncheon” is about a lady admirer of the writer who managed to get a luncheon invitation from him to an expensive Paris restaurant twenty years ago. With humour and irony, the writer describes the lady’s lavish eating at his expense and what happened to her twenty years later.



### The Luncheon

*William Somerset Maugham*

I caught sight of her at the play, and in answer to her beckoning, I went over during the interval and sat down beside her. It was long since I had last seen her, and if someone had not mentioned her name I hardly think I would have recognized her.

She addressed me brightly.

“Well, it’s many years since we first met. How time does fly! We’re none of us getting any younger. Do you remember the first time I saw you? You asked me to luncheon.”

Did I remember?

It was twenty years ago and I was living in Paris. I had a tiny apartment in the Latin quarter overlooking a cemetery, and I was earning barely enough money to keep body and soul together. She had read a book of mine and had written to me about it. I answered, thanking her, and presently I received from her another letter saying that she was passing through Paris and would like to have a chat with me; but her time was limited, and the only free moment she had was on the following Thursday; she was spending the morning at the Luxembourg and would I give her a little luncheon at Foyot’s afterwards? Foyot’s is a restaurant at which the French senators eat, and it was so far beyond my means that I had never even thought of going there. But I was flattered, and I was too young to have learned to say no to a woman. ... I had eighty francs (gold francs) to last me the rest of the month, and a modest luncheon should not cost more than fifteen. If I cut out coffee for the next two weeks I could manage well enough.

I answered that I would meet my friend-by correspondence-at Foyot’s on Thursday at half-past twelve. She was not so young as I expected and in appearance imposing rather than attractive. She was, in fact, a woman of forty ... and she gave me the impression of having more teeth,

white and large and even, than were necessary for any practical purpose. She was talkative, but since she seemed inclined to talk about me I was prepared to be an attentive listener.

I was startled when the bill of fare was brought, for the prices were a great deal higher than I had anticipated. But she reassured me.

“I never eat anything for luncheon,” she said.

“Oh, don’t say that!” I answered generously.

“I never eat more than one thing. I think people eat far too much nowadays. A little fish, perhaps. I wonder if they have any salmon.”

Well, it was early in the year for salmon and it was not on the bill of fare, but I asked the waiter if there was any. Yes, a beautiful salmon had just come in, it was the first they had had. I ordered it for my guest. The waiter asked her if she would have something while it was being cooked.

“No,” she answered, “I never eat more than one thing unless you have a little caviare, I never mind caviare.”

My heart sank a little. I knew I could not afford caviare, but I could not very well tell her that. I told the waiter by all means to bring caviare. For myself I chose the cheapest dish on the menu and that was a mutton chop.

“I think you are unwise to eat meat,” she said. “I don’t know how you can expect to work after eating heavy things like chops. I don’t believe in overloading my stomach.” Then came the question of drink.

“I never drink anything for luncheon,” she said.

“Neither do I,” I answered promptly.

“Except white wine,” she proceeded as though I had not spoken.

“These French white wines are so light. They’re wonderful for the digestion.”

“What would you like?” I asked, hospitable still, but not exactly effusive.

She gave me a bright and amicable flash of her white teeth.

“My doctor won’t let me drink anything but champagne.”

I fancy I turned a trifle pale. I ordered half a bottle. I mentioned casually that my doctor had absolutely forbidden me to drink champagne.

“What are you going to drink, then?”

“Water.”

She ate the caviare and she ate the salmon. She talked gaily of art and literature and music. But I wondered what the bill would come to. When my mutton chop arrived she took me quite seriously to task.

“I see that you’re in the habit of eating a heavy luncheon. I’m sure it’s a mistake. Why don’t you follow my example and just eat one thing? I’m sure you’d feel ever so much better for it.”

“I am only going to eat one thing.” I said, as the waiter came again with the bill of fare. She waved him aside with an airy gesture.

“No. no. I never eat anything for luncheon. Just a bite, I never want more than that, and I eat that more as an excuse for conversation than anything else. I couldn’t possibly eat anything more unless they had some of those giant asparagus. I should be sorry to leave Paris without having some of them.”

My heart sank. I had seen them in the shops, and I knew that they were horribly expensive. My

mouth had often watered at the sight of them.

“Madame wants to know if you have any of those giant asparagus.” I asked the waiter.

I tried with all my might to will him to say no. A happy smile spread over his broad, priest-like face, and he assured me that they had some so large, so splendid, so tender, that it was a marvel.

“I’m not in the least hungry,” my guest sighed, “but if you insist I don’t mind having some asparagus.”

I ordered them.

“Aren’t you going to have any?”

“No, I never eat asparagus.”

“I know there are people who don’t like them. The fact is, you ruin your palate by all the meat you eat.”

We waited for the asparagus to be cooked. Panic seized me. It was not a question now of how much money I should have left over for the rest of the month, but whether I had enough to pay the bill.

The asparagus appeared. They were enormous, succulent, and appetizing. The smell of the melted butter tickled my nostrils....

“Coffee?” I said.

“Yes, just an ice cream and coffee,” she answered.

I was past caring now. So I ordered coffee for myself and an ice cream and coffee for her.

“You know, there’s one thing I thoroughly believe in,” she said, as she ate the ice cream. “One should always get up from a meal feeling one could eat a little more.”

“Are you still hungry?” I asked faintly.

“Oh, no, I’m not hungry; you see, I don’t eat luncheon. I have a cup of coffee in the morning and then dinner, but I never eat more than one thing for luncheon. I was speaking for you.”

“Oh, I see!”

Then a terrible thing happened. While we were waiting for the coffee, the head waiter, with an ingratiating smile on his false face, came up to us bearing a large basket full of huge peaches. They had the blush of an innocent girl; they had the rich tone of an Italian landscape. But surely peaches were not in season then? Lord knew what they cost.

“You see, you’ve filled your stomach with a lot of meat”—my one miserable little chop—“and you can’t eat any more. But I’ve just had a snack and I shall enjoy a peach”.

The bill came and when I paid it I found that I had only enough for a quite inadequate tip. Her eyes rested for an instant on the three francs I left for the waiter, and I knew that she thought me mean. But when I walked out of the restaurant I had the whole month before me and not a penny in my pocket.

“Follow my example,” she said as we shook hand, and never eat more than one thing for luncheon.”

“I’ll do better than that”, I retorted. “I’ll eat nothing for dinner to-night.”

“Humorist!” she cried gaily, jumping into a cab, “you’re quite a humorist!”

But I have had my revenge at last. I do not believe that I am a vindictive man, but when the immortal gods take a hand in the matter it is pardonable to observe the result with complacency. Today she weighs twenty-one stone.

### Vocabulary

The meanings of some words and terms from the story are given below. Read the story a second time, and if you still have words you don't know the meanings of find them in a dictionary.

Luncheon	: a formal lunch
Play	: a theatre performance
Latin quarter	: a section of Paris, popular with students and writes like the story's narrator
Cemetery	: a large burial ground
Senator	: a member of a senate, a lawmaker
Imposing	: impressive in appearance
Startle	: give sudden shock
Bill of fare	: a menu
Generous	: liberal, showing readiness to give something
Caviare	: the mass of eggs of a large fish, especially sturgeon, eaten as a delicacy
Hospitable	: friendly, genial
Effusive	: showing pleasure or emotion in an unrestrained manner
Amicable	: friendly
Airy	: causal
Ingratiating	: intended to gain someone's approval or favour
Humorist	: a humourous writer
Vindictive	: revengeful
Complacency	: uncritical self-satisfaction
Stone	: 14 pounds



### 3. Answer the following questions.

- what does the word "beckon" means
  - call
  - shout
  - call by a movement of hand or head
  - criticize
- the word interval means-
  - break
  - period
  - holiday
  - Rest
- "catch sight of" means
  - See for a moment
  - Hear
  - Call Loudly
  - Under stance
- The writer was living in Paris at a
  - Small flat
  - Big apartment
  - A Hotel



- iv) A House
- e. The writer was -----to see the bill of fare
- Frightened
  - Delighted
  - Glad
  - Pleased
- f. What does 'Talkative' mean—
- Flatterer
  - Verbose
  - Sycophant
  - Chatterbox

**4. Answer the following questions:**

- What is Foyot's?
- Where did the writer live? How was the environment there?
- How did the lady look actually?
- How many times of food does the lady order?
- With how much amount did the writer enter Foyot's?
- At one stage of the luncheon, the writer feels panicked. Why?
- What is an asparagus?

**5. Summarize the passage in your own language?**

**6. Read the text below and fill in the gaps with suitable words from the text.**

The (a) -----story "The Luncheon" is about a (b) -----admirer of the writer. His first (c) -----being published he got many (d)----- of thanks from the readers. Among his (e) ----- the lady guest was one. Through (f) -----second letter the lady (g)----- -----to have a gossip with the writer.(h) -----Writer responded to her proposal and he invited the lady (i)----- Foyot's (j)-----a luncheon. There he went with eighty gold francs, the French Currency.

**7. Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions:**

While we were waiting\_\_\_\_\_coffee, the head waiter, with a smile\_\_\_\_\_his face came\_\_\_\_\_to us, bearing a large basket full\_\_\_\_\_huge peaches.



**Answer Key**

**Lesson 1**

- 3.
- iii. 40
  - i. because of microbial presence
  - iii. because of poor processing of the milk
  - ii. 20
  - ii. 15
  - iv. Lead chromate
  - . i. security

- h. iv. milk, milk products, fish, fruits & vegetables
4. a) Milk, milk products, fish fruits,& vegetables contained Banned Pesticides
- b) A 15-member team of the national Food Safety Laboratory with support from the Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO) collected & tested food samples from the capitals Gulshan, Kawranbazar, & Mohakhali.
- c) The Scientist realized that the water supply was contaminated because they showed the presence of high microbial population in water.
- d) In the title of the news report the phrase new height refers to the alarming situation of the food adulteration prevailing in our Country.
- e) The traces of antibiotics in the samples of chicken & fish confirm that even our poultry products are contaminated.
- f) The health risks related to adulterated food is very fatal. Eating adulterated food People suffer from many fatal diseases like cancer, kidney failure & heart problems.
- g) The current state of the Food Safety Act is that the Ministry of Food has enacted the Act but has not prepared the necessary rules yet.
5. a) FAO, b) a, c) of, d) operation e) samples, f) found g) contaminated h) fatal i) arsenic j) adulteration
7. i+c, ii+f, iii+b, iv+g, v+e, vi+d, vii+a

## Lesson 2

3.

- a. iii) call by a movement of hand or head
- b. i) break
- c. i) See for a moment
- d. i) Small flat
- e. i) Frightened
- f. iv) Chatterbox

4.

- a) Foyot's is an expensive restaurant at which the French senators eat.
- b) The writer lived in Paris. There he had a tiny apartment in the Latin Quarter overlooking a cemetery.
- c) The lady was actually a woman of forty. She was not so young as the writer expected and in appearance imposing rather than attractive. Above all, she was talkative.
- d) The lady ordered seven times of food. They are Salmon, Caviare, Champagne, Asparagus, Coffee, Ice-cream and Peaches.
- e) The writer entered into Foyot's with eighty gold Franc.
- f) The writer had only eighty Francs in his pocket. But the lady ate seven expensive items of food. So the writer felt panicked wondering whether he had enough money to pay the bill.
- g) An asparagus is a plant whose young green or white stems are cooked and eaten as a vegetable.
5. The luncheon is a famous short story by William Somerset Maugham. The lady admirer, the focus character, wrote a letter of thanks to him for his first book and he also thanked her. In the second letter she wanted to have chat with him before passing through Paris. At last the writer entertained the lady at Foyot's and was startled to see the bill of fare.
6. a) short, b) lady, c) book, d) letters, e) readers, f) the, g) liked ,h) the, i) at, j) for. 7. for, on, up, of