

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

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|---|-------|
| a. The French president put his British dinner in the trash can. | T / F |
| b. Mr. Chirac said Finnish food was the worst in Europe. | T / F |
| c. Mr. Chirac said British people could not cook well. | T / F |
| d. Mr. Chirac's jokes have eased Anglo-British tensions. | T / F |
| e. Paris's Olympic bid may be harmed by Mr. Chirac's remarks. | T / F |
| f. British shoppers are boycotting French produce. | T / F |
| g. A British food critic said Mr. Chirac is an expert judge of good food. | T / F |
| h. Mr. Chirac loves playing with marbles. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

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|---------------------|-------------|
| a. hot water | bash |
| b. quips | blunders |
| c. swipe | insulting |
| d. antagonistic | comments |
| e. stoked up | comment |
| f. asides | tirades |
| g. broadsides | big trouble |
| h. faux pas | gone crazy |
| i. pronounce | wisecracks |
| j. lost his marbles | intensified |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

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|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. landed himself | swipe at |
| b. alleges | Anglo-French rivalries |
| c. an added | Paris's 2012 Olympics bid |
| d. antagonistic | field day |
| e. stoked up | remarks |
| f. may have connotations for | pronounce on food |
| g. British people have retaliated | in hot water |
| h. newspapers too have had a | his marbles |
| i. not fit to | at Mr. Chirac's broadsides |
| j. he has lost | to have overheard |

France's Chirac rubbishes British food

BNE: French President Jacques Chirac has landed himself in hot water over comments he made about British and Finnish cuisine. A reporter from France's *Liberation* newspaper alleges to have overheard Mr. Chirac making culinary quips to Russian and German leaders. President Chirac joked that Finnish food was the worst in Europe, followed closely by British fare. He said: "The only thing they [the British] have done for European agriculture is mad cow". An added swipe at British cooking was: "You can't trust people who cook as badly as that." His antagonistic remarks have stoked up Anglo-French rivalries ahead of the G8 summit, which begins on July 6.

Mr. Chirac's tasteless and unsavory asides may have connotations for Paris's 2012 Olympics bid. The final decision will be made on July 6 and two Finnish delegates are part of the deciding committee. British people have retaliated at Mr. Chirac's broadsides against their food by boycotting French produce. British newspapers too have had a field day lambasting the French leader for his irreverent diplomatic faux pas. Egon Ronay, a renowned food critic, wrote in the *Daily Telegraph*: "A man full of bile is not fit to pronounce on food." *The Sun* was equally unrestrained, calling Mr. Chirac a "petty, racist creep"; while the *Daily Express* gibed, "he has lost his marbles".