

## 53½ Hot Dogs



## 1. Read the story

Look at the pictures on these pages.  
What is the story about? Now read it.

NEW YORK CITY, USA <sup>1</sup>Who can eat the most hot dogs\* in 12 minutes? **Each** year on the July 4 **holiday**, Nathan's Famous restaurant in New York City has a contest\*\* to **find out**. The best eaters in the world come to the restaurant. <sup>2</sup>Takeru "Tsunami" Kobayashi of Japan **entered** the contest in 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004 and won all four times!

<sup>3</sup>Kobayashi, 26, is a **thin** man—as thin as a **pencil**. Many other eaters in the contest are much

bigger **than** Kobayashi. <sup>4</sup>But **never mind**—Kobayashi can eat faster! At Nathan's, he pushes **in** two hot dogs at once. <sup>5</sup>He **dances** just a **little** **while** he eats. "It helps me," he explains. "I eat **even** faster when I dance." <sup>6</sup>In 2004, his best year **ever**, Kobayashi finished 53½ hot dogs in 12 minutes. "He's the best," say people at Nathan's. "**No one** ever ate so many."

\*hot dogs: frankfurters (meat) inside bread

\*\*contest: a game or test that people try to win

## NEW WORDS

each *det*  
holiday *n*  
find out *v*

enter *v*  
thin *adj*  
as...as *conj*

pencil *n*  
than *conj*  
never mind *interj*

dance *v*  
a little *adv*  
even *adv*  
no one *pron*

>> See Glossary on page 95. >>

## 2. Rate the story

How much did you like it? Mark an X.



### 3. Check your comprehension

Match the first and second parts of the sentences.

- |                                 |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. Nathan's restaurant has ____ | 1. a thin man but a big eater.    |
| b. Some eaters are ____         | 2. two hot dogs at the same time. |
| c. Kobayashi is ____            | 3. first in 2004.                 |
| d. He can eat ____              | 4. a hot dog contest.             |
| e. He dances ____               | 5. very big.                      |
| f. He finished ____             | 6. when he eats.                  |

### 4. Check your vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the New Words.

- Who can eat the most hot dogs? Nathan's has a contest e\_\_\_\_ year to find \_\_\_\_.
- Kobayashi is as thin \_\_ a pen \_\_, but he e\_\_\_\_ed and won the contest four times.
- Kobayashi eats fast. He can eat e\_\_\_\_ faster when he d\_\_\_\_es a lit\_\_\_\_.
- Before Kobayashi, no \_\_\_\_ ever ate  $53\frac{1}{2}$  hot dogs in 12 minutes.

### 5. Listen to the story track 30

Now listen to the story two or three times. Look at the pictures below as you listen.



### 6. Retell the story

Cover the story and look at the pictures above. Retell the story using the New Words.

## 7. Answer the questions

### About the story...

- Why is Kobayashi famous?
- How big is he? How big are the other eaters?
- What does Kobayashi do while he eats? Why?
- What was his best year ever? How many hot dogs did he finish?

### About you...

- Would you like to enter Nathan's contest? Why or why not?
- What is your favorite food? How much can you eat?
- Do you ever enter contests? What kind?
- What is your favorite holiday? What do you do?

## 8. Learn word partnerships

Study the partnerships below. Complete the sentences so they are true for you.

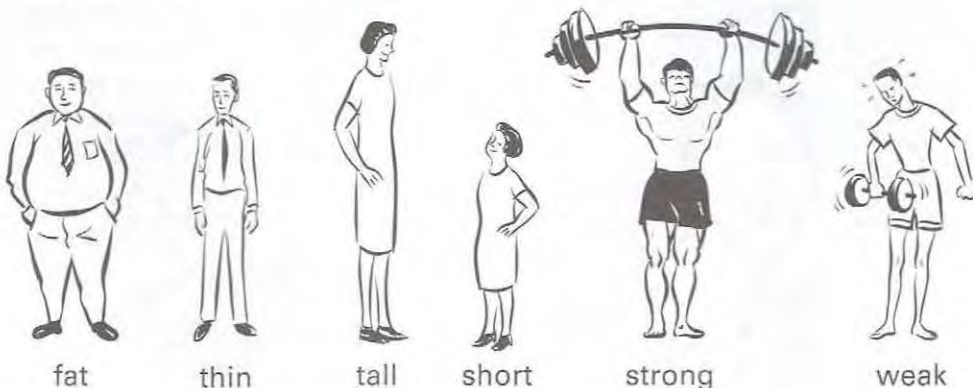
AS...AS	
as thin as a pencil	<b><i>Kobayashi is as thin as a pencil.</i></b>
as busy as a bee	<i>She never stops working; she's as busy as a bee.</i>
as sick as a dog	<i>I was as sick as a dog last week.</i>
as good as gold	<i>Your baby never cries; he's as good as gold!</i>
as old as the hills	<i>My computer is as old as the hills.</i>

- My \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ the hills.
- \_\_\_\_\_ as gold.
- I am as \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_.

## 9. Learn word groups

Complete the sentences so they are true for you. Use words from the pictures.

### DESCRIBING PEOPLE



- I am not \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
- When I was a child, I was \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- My good friend is very \_\_\_\_\_.

## 10. Take a dictation track 31

Use your own paper to write the dictation. Check your answers on page 87.

## 11. Complete the story

Use the words from the box to complete the story.

tall even never mind each than fat holidays

### Man Eats 18 Cows

FOND DU LAC, WISC., USA (1) \_\_\_\_\_ day, Donald Gorske, 50, eats two or three big hamburgers with cheese\*. From 1972 to 2005, he ate more (2) \_\_\_\_\_ 20,000 Big Mac sandwiches from McDonald's restaurant. That's almost 18 cows\*\* and hundreds of kilograms of cheese!

Gorske's wife, Mary, never cooks meals for him. But (3) \_\_\_\_\_ –Gorske likes it that way! He (4) \_\_\_\_\_ likes hamburgers more than meals at home. He does not like eating any other food like eggs, fish, or fruit. On (5) \_\_\_\_\_ like Christmas, he eats only Big Macs. Gorske always keeps a lot of hamburgers in his refrigerator.

The man is really (6) \_\_\_\_\_ –about 1.83 meters—but not (7) \_\_\_\_\_. He almost never gets sick. "I love hamburgers," he says. "Why stop eating them?"

\* cheese: yellow or white food made from milk  
\*\* cows: big farm animals that give milk



### Talk about the stories

Imagine that you and a partner are Takeru Kobayashi and Donald Gorske. You are meeting for the first time. Tell each other about your unusual meals.