

A Worm a Day



1. Read the story

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

NAKHON NAYOK, THAILAND ¹People around the world eat different unusual foods. Some eat **insects** like grasshoppers* or flies. ²Paisit Chanta, 39, eats something unusual, too—a worm** a day!

³His **habit** began 30 years ago while he was sitting in a boat and waiting for a fish to **bite**. There was nothing to eat in the boat, and he got hungry. ⁴Chanta looked at his **can** of worms. “Suddenly, I **realized** that fish don’t die from eating worms,” he said later, “so I won’t **either**.” ⁵Chanta ate them one by one, until he felt full. They weren’t bad!

⁶Now Chanta is **crazy about** worms and thinks they are like **medicine**. “I eat a worm a day to stay **healthy**,” he says. ⁷Chanta works as a fire fighter and often **digs** for worms near the fire station. “We **are used to** that,” says a coworker***, but we still think it is strange.”

⁸Chanta does not **care** what others think. “To me, the worms taste just like rice!”

* grasshoppers: insects that jump high with long back legs

** worm: a small animal with a long, thin body and no legs

*** coworker: a person who works with you

NEW WORDS

insect <i>n</i>	bite <i>v</i>	realize <i>v</i>	be crazy about <i>v</i>	healthy <i>adj</i>	be used to <i>v</i>
habit <i>n</i>	can <i>n</i>	either <i>adv</i>	medicine <i>n</i>	dig <i>v</i>	care <i>v</i>

>> See Glossary on page 92. >>

2. Rate the story

How much did you like it? Mark an X.



3. Check your comprehension

Correct five mistakes in the story summary.

Many years ago, Paisit Chanta was sitting in a car and waiting for a dog to bite. He suddenly got tired, so he decided to eat some worms. They were not bad! Chanta now eats one worm a week. He says that worms keep him healthy and taste just like chocolate!

4. Check your vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the New Words.

- Chanta's unusual ha___ started while he was waiting for a fish to b___.
- He looked at his c___ of worms. "Fish don't die from eating worms," he re___zed, "so I won't eit___."
- Chanta often d___s for worms, and he takes them like medi___.
- "We are u___ to that," says his coworker.

5. Listen to the story track 20

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...

- When and why did Chanta's habit begin?
- What does he think worms do for him?
- What do his coworkers think about the unusual habit?
- What do you think about it?

About you...

- What unusual foods do you or your friends eat?
- Which foods were strange to you as a child? Are you used to them now?
- What foods are you crazy about?
- What healthy and unhealthy foods do you eat?

8. Learn word partnerships

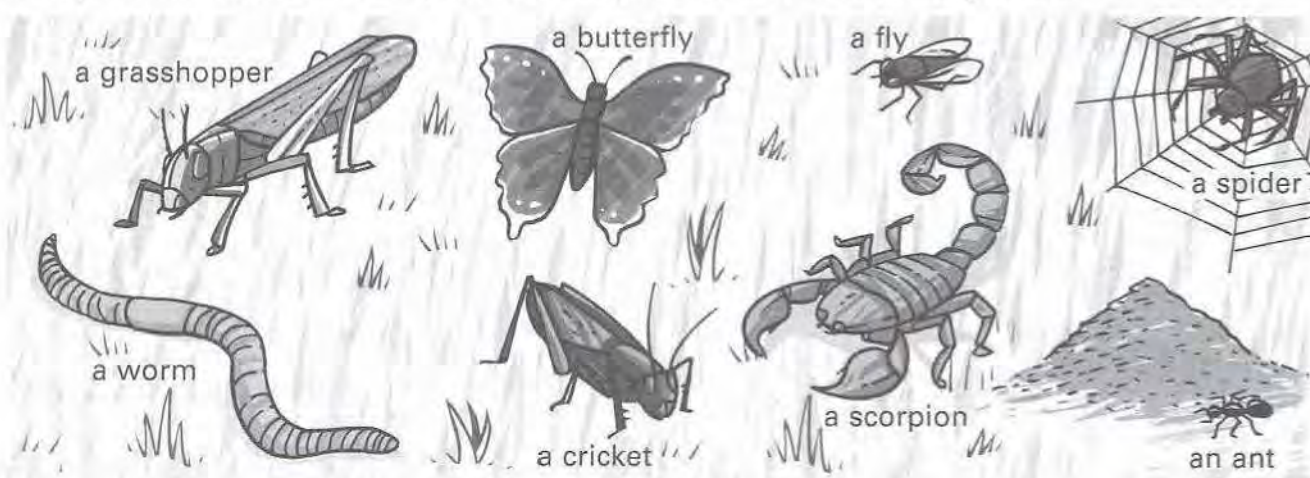
Study the partnerships below. Complete the sentences so they are true for you.

BE CRAZY ABOUT		
be (really) crazy about	something	Chanta is crazy about worms. <i>I'm really crazy about cats.</i> <i>She's crazy about pop music.</i>
	doing something	<i>I'm really crazy about traveling.</i> <i>He's crazy about dancing.</i>

- I don't like _____, but I'm crazy about _____.
- My friend _____ crazy about _____, but I'm not.
- I'm not crazy _____.

9. Learn word groups

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



- Sometimes I find _____ in my house.
- When I see _____, I feel scared.
- I think _____ is a beautiful insect.

10. Take a dictation track 21

Use your own paper to write the dictation. Check your answers on page 86.

11. Complete the story

Use the words from the box to complete the story.

digs habit insect worms
is crazy about crickets healthy

Crazy About Scorpions

SAN FRANCISCO, USA Have you ever eaten an (1) _____? Scott Bowers, 32, (2) _____ them. His unusual (3) _____ began in 1999. He was spending time in the country on a business trip, and he was bored. So he chased and caught some big black (4) _____ and cooked them for his coworkers. They were very tasty!

What is Bowers' favorite food? Scorpions! "They taste like fish," he says. He also likes (5) _____. He (6) _____ them up from the ground and cooks them with vegetables.

Bowers likes the taste of insects, but he also eats them because they are (7) _____. Bowers shares his hobby with other insect-lovers in his neighborhood. He goes out with them to restaurants that have insects on the menu. Bowers has also made a Website for people who enjoy eating insects and are looking for new recipes*.

* recipes: pieces of writing that tell you how to cook something



Talk about the stories

Imagine that you and a partner are Paisit Chanta and Scott Bowers. You are meeting for the first time. Tell each other what you like to eat.