

[Solution] Let's Have a Meal!

Written by Jace

Answer: XXXXXXXXXX

This puzzle starts off with three key components: an unfinished table that features various dishes and people pre-placed, a list of diners with foods they like and dislike, and a menu of items. Your intuition, along with some menu items being struck out initially, implies that we should be placing all the people and all of the menu items in the grid such that each diner is only looking at foods that they like.

Let's now direct our attention to each of our diners. Each diner has a rule (clued by their name) that dictates whether they will or will not like an item. Some of these rules are based on the foods themselves and others are based on spelling/other qualities about the word itself.

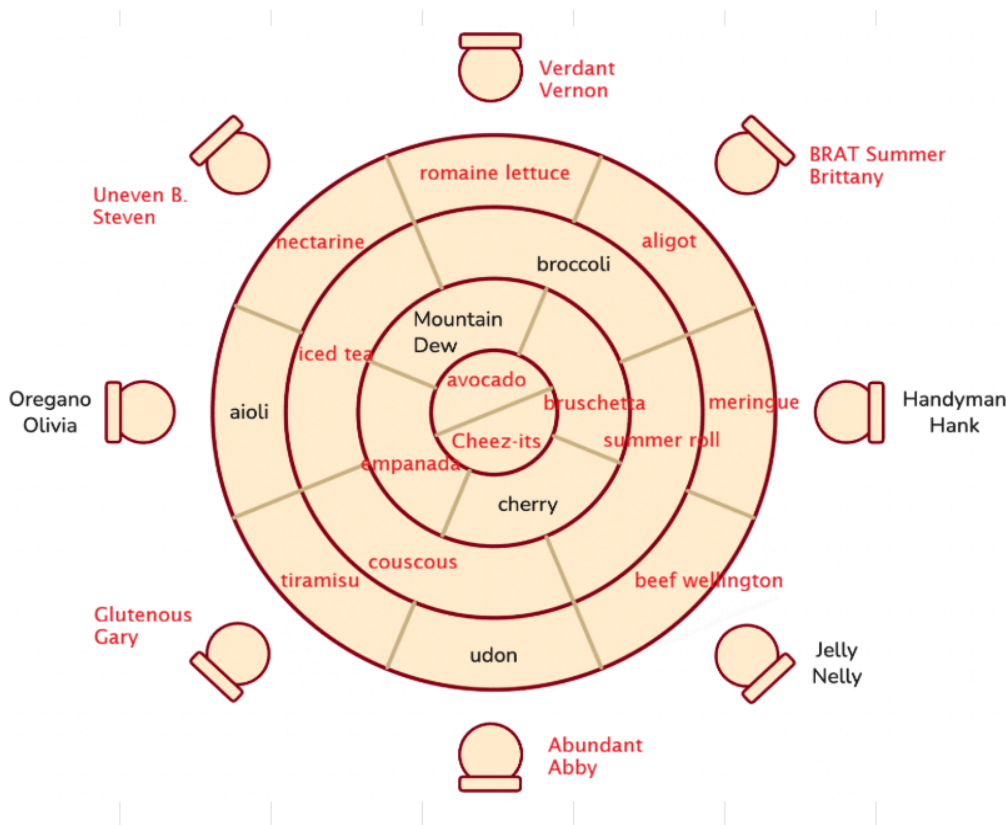
The like/dislike rules for each diner is as follows:

- **Abundant Abby:** Likes foods that come in multiple pieces or servings.
- **BRAT Summer Brittany:** Likes items that start with the letter B, R, A, or T.
- **Glutenous Gary:** Likes items that contain gluten.
- **Handyman Hank:** Likes foods traditionally eaten with your hands.
- **Jelly Nelly:** Likes items that contain double letters.
- **Oregano Olivia:** Likes items that start and end with a vowel.
- **Uneven B. Steven:** Likes items that contain an odd number of letters.
- **Verdant Vernon:** Likes items that are traditionally green in color.

Once figuring out all of the rules for each diner, it's time to place everyone/thing into the grid!

As an initial break-in, a solver might recognize that there are only four foods on the menu list that are green, forcing them to be in Verdant Vernon's line of vision. You can couple that with additional constraints, like for example, there are also four foods that start and end with a vowel, meaning that they must be in line with Oregano Olivia's line of vision.

Once solved, your final table will look like this (apologies for my lack of Canva skills):



Finally, as the flavor text suggests, we take the first letters of every dish directly in front of a patron (romaine lettuce for Verdant Vernon, aligot for BRAT Brittany, and so forth). This spells our final answer of **RAMBUTAN**.

Author's Notes:

I owe a lot of this puzzle's creation to both Ananya and Cindy. While I was writing for CMU's Worm Hunt, I managed to keep up with the deadlines for Holiday Hoopla, but didn't have much bandwidth beyond that. Ananya and Cindy came in mad clutch when it came to the art for this puzzle, as well as highlighting key updates, deadlines, etc. This really helped me stay on track with production and ultimately finish the puzzle.

All in all, I'm really happy with how this puzzle turned out! I've realized I've been writing a lot of non-traditional logic puzzles, but hey, I'm not complaining... Are you?