



FAKE DELIGHTS!

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PDF 1: Warm-up & Reading

Fake Delights! Japan's Amazing Plastic Food



Everything looks so delicious... but can you eat it?

The Story – Fake Delights!

When tourists visit Japan, they often stop and stare at restaurant windows. Why? Because the food looks perfect — colorful sushi, juicy steaks, tall ice cream sundaes, and fresh ramen. But here's the surprise... you can't eat any of it!

These beautiful food items are called **sampuru** — realistic plastic or wax models. Japanese companies make these “fake delights” to show customers exactly what the real dishes look like before they order.

Making sampuru is a special art. Artists carefully study real food, then create each piece by hand using plastic, wax, and paint. Some models look so real that people try to touch them or even take photos pretending to eat them!

In the picture, you can see a confused tourist scratching his head in front of a shop called “Fake Delights.” Next door is the “Plastic Pantry,” full of perfect-looking plastic food. There's even a giant ice cream cone sculpture!

Japan is famous for these fake foods. They help restaurants attract customers and make ordering easier, especially for people who don't speak Japanese.

Who knew fake food could be so useful and fun?

Vocabulary

Word	Meaning	Sounds Like
delight	something that gives great pleasure	dih-LYTE
realistic	looking very close to real life	ree-uh-LIS-tik
sampuru	Japanese word for plastic food models	sam-POO-roo
wax	a soft material used to make models	WAKS
sculpture	a piece of art made by shaping materials	SKULP-cher
attract	to make people interested	uh-TRAKT
confused	not sure what is happening	kun-FYOOZD
customer	a person who buys something	KUS-tuh-mer
artist	a person who creates art	AR-tist
pretend	to act as if something is true	pree-TEND

Quick Activity

Choose 4 words and write sentences about the picture

Fun Facts about Japanese Fake Food

- Japan has been making plastic food samples since the 1930s.
- Some sampuru artists train for many years to make realistic models.
- The giant fake ice cream in the picture is a famous photo spot.
- Restaurants use these models so customers can “see” the food before ordering.

Comprehension Questions

A. True or False

True / False

1. The food in the windows is real and ready to eat. _____
2. Sampuru means plastic or wax food models. _____
3. These fake foods help restaurants attract customers. _____

B. Answer the questions

1. What are sampuru? _____
2. Why do restaurants use fake food models? _____
3. What does the confused tourist do in the story? _____

C. What do you think?

Look at the picture. Why do you think the man looks confused?