

Scrambled* in translation? Norway Olympics team orders 15,000 eggs by mistake

Chefs for Norwegian athletes confronted with 'half a truckload' of eggs after an order at South Korean games went wrong*

Before you read the complete article, look at this vocabulary and find it in the text:

***to scramble:** in this context - to make something confusing or mixed up (scrambled eggs: a dish of eggs prepared by beating them and then cooking and stirring gently)

truckload: a quantity that can be transported in a truck, or (inf.) a large amount of goods

surplus: an amount (a quantity) of something left over; an excess

grocer: a person or shop that sells food and other goods

to avert: to prevent or avoid

crate: a wooden or plastic container used for transporting goods

syllable: a unit of pronunciation, containing at least a vowel sound

to arrest: to seize and detain by legal authority

N-word: an informal word used to replace the taboo word "nigger"

Chefs with the Norwegian Winter Olympic team found themselves with 13,500 unwanted eggs after what they describe as an error while ordering for their hungry athletes from their South Korean base. The chefs, who were catering for their country's 109 competitors at the Pyeongchang games, ordered 15,000 eggs to be delivered to their kitchen, instead of 1,500 needed.

Speaking to the Norwegian newspaper Aftenposten, chef Stale Johansen, said his team "received half a **truckload** of eggs" and that there was "no end to the delivery", adding it was "absolutely unbelievable." Fortunately for the team, who according to Johansen have enjoyed eating fresh salmon and tacos in the past, the chefs (once they realised their mistake) were able to return the 13,500 **surplus** to the **grocer**.

And while a crisis was **averted**, questions around the cause of the mistake remain. There have been some suggestions that Google translate was used to make the



online order, however, this is unlikely to fully explain the error. South Korea also has a complex counting system, which employs different systems for different purposes. It is common for restaurants to buy eggs by the **crate** in multiples of 30 in South Korea, but changing one **syllable** would mean the difference between 1,500 and 15,000.

The Norwegians are not the only ones who have been lost in translation recently. Last year, a Palestinian man was **arrested** by Israeli police after his Facebook post saying "good morning" in Arabic was reportedly mistranslated to read "attack them" in Hebrew. And Chinese messaging app WeChat apologised after its software used the **N-word** as an English translation for the Chinese for "black foreigner".

Adapted from: <http://www.bbc.com/news-world-europe-42978915> and <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/feb/08/norway-olympics-team-orders-15000-eggs-by-mistake-south-korea>

"Let's chat about that!"

Send your answers to your ECP coach!

- Do you like eating eggs? What's your favourite method of preparation? (see page 2 for ideas)
- Have you ever made a big mistake in translation? Can you tell us about it? Was it funny or embarrassing?
- Do you ever use Google translate? Why/not?
- How many is a billion? Is it different to a thousand million? Are you sure or could you be mistaken?
- What would you do if you had 13,500 extra eggs? Let your imagination run wild!!

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to refund: to pay money back

grave: a hole in the ground for a dead body

to set up: to start, to organise

pace: rhythm

peckish: to feel a little hungry

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SpongeBob Squarepants causes problems in cemetery

A two metre headstone is considered inappropriate

A cemetery in the US state of Ohio has **angered** the family of a military veteran by removing a SpongeBob SquarePants headstone from her grave.

Kimberly Walker's family erected a 2 metre stone of her favourite cartoon character wearing an Army uniform with her name and rank. The cemetery in the city of Cincinnati had initially approved the headstone.

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“How do you like your eggs?”



Hard Boiled

A hard boiled egg is cooked in its shell in boiling water for 10-12 minutes. ‘Hard’ refers to the consistency of the egg white and the yolk.

Soft Boiled

Soft boiled eggs follow the same process as hard boiled eggs, but you cut the cooking time roughly in half. This gets the egg white cooked while leaving the yolk runny.

Scrambled

Scrambled means that the whites and yolks are broken and mixed together - quite possibly with other ingredients such as mushrooms, cheese or prawns. They’re perfect on buttered toast with salt and pepper.



Omelette

An omelette indicates that the eggs are first beaten and then cooked until they’ve stabilised into a usable form and topped with other ingredients: cheeses, meats, vegetables... anything!

Fried

There are many versions, depending on how you like your egg white and yolk: Sunny Side Up, Over Easy, Over Medium, Over Hard. ‘Over’ means the egg is flipped - turned over - for the time required to get the consistency you prefer.



Poached

The egg is cooked without its shell in boiling water (often in a small bowl). The white is cooked through and the yolk is warm and runny.