Restaurants and Reviews

Warm up

- How often do you eat out?
- What's your favourite restaurant? What type of cuisine do they serve?
- What was the last restaurant you ate at? How was it?
- Do you think very expensive restaurants are worth it, or are they just overpriced?
- How would you describe your country's cuisine? What are some of your country's most popular dishes?
- Do you tip at restaurants in your country? What do you think about tipping?
- If you had to open a restaurant, what type of restaurant would you open and why?

1. With a partner, rank what is most important for you in a restaurant from 1 to 6 (1 is the most important, 6 is the least important). Then tell the class about your ranking.

Value for Money	Friendly Staff	Tasty Food
Portion Size	Fast Service	Atmosphere

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2. Read through the restaurant reviews and discuss with a partner which you would go to.

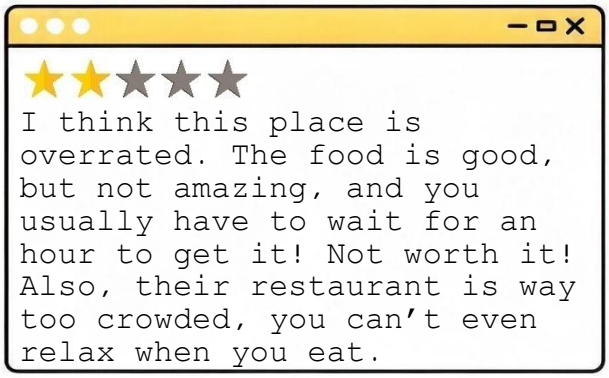
The Mad Chicken

Oh my God this is by far the best fried chicken place! The chicken is crunchy and soft, and the spicy burgers are amazing! If you like deep fried food, you can't miss this!

I was pretty disappointed. The food is too greasy, and the staff were a little rude when I asked them to explain something on the menu! They do have really good chips though.

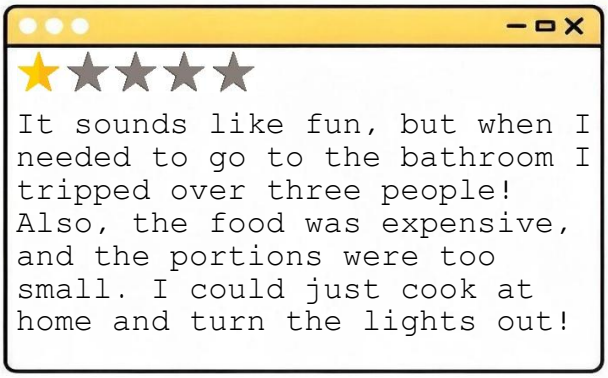
Carlito's Tacos

Incredible tacos, really authentic Mexican food. Their food is always fresh, and they cook the meat in front of you! My only complaint is that the line is way too long!


I think this place is overrated. The food is good, but not amazing, and you usually have to wait for an hour to get it! Not worth it! Also, their restaurant is way too crowded, you can't even relax when you eat.

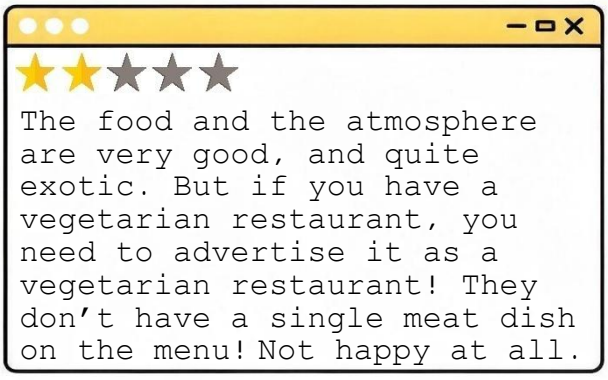
Dinner in the Dark

Great idea for a restaurant, the restaurant is completely dark so you can't even see what you're eating! My family and I had fun, but I'm pretty sure we left a big mess too!


It sounds like fun, but when I needed to go to the bathroom I tripped over three people! Also, the food was expensive, and the portions were too small. I could just cook at home and turn the lights out!

Taste of Nepal

One of the best vegetarian restaurants in town, incredible curries and dumplings! My only complaint is that some of the food is slightly too spicy.


The food and the atmosphere are very good, and quite exotic. But if you have a vegetarian restaurant, you need to advertise it as a vegetarian restaurant! They don't have a single meat dish on the menu! Not happy at all.

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3. You are going to listen to a couple discuss the restaurants above. The discussion contains the vocabulary in the box. Use the vocabulary to complete the sentences below.

look up	blind	fancy	realise
upset	anniversary	suit	ages

a) The accident left him *blind* in one eye.

b) He wore a dark *suit* to the job interview.

c) She was *upset* because her boyfriend forgot her birthday.

d) We're celebrating our tenth wedding *anniversary* this weekend.

e) They went to a *fancy* restaurant, it was expensive, but it was worth it.

f) I haven't seen my cousin in *ages*, it's been at least 5 years.

g) I didn't *realise* that the shop was closed, so I tried to go in.

h) Can you *look up* the address of the restaurant and give me directions?

4. Now listen to the conversation[1] and answer the questions.

a) How did Jacob find these restaurants? *Google maps*

b) Why doesn't Lucy want to go to The Mad Chicken? *It's not romantic enough for their anniversary.*

c) Why does Lucy think Carlito's is a good choice, and why does Jacob think it isn't? *They both love Mexican cuisine, but Jacob hates waiting in line.*

d) Why is Jacob curious about the Nepalese restaurant? *Because he has never tried Nepalese cuisine before.*

e) What type of waiters does 'Dinner in the Dark' employ, and why? *Blind waiters, so they are better at navigating in the dark*

f) What are the two reasons Jacob doesn't want to wear his grey suit? *It's uncomfortable, and nobody will see him (because it's dark)*

[1] https://quick-and-easy-english.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Restaurants-1.mp3

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Qualifiers: How much?

Qualifiers are words that tell us how strong the adjective following them is.

For example, *"The food is quite spicy."* The word 'quite' is a qualifier, and tells us it is spicy, but not very spicy.

"The food is extremely spicy" means the food is very, very spicy. 'Extremely' is the qualifier.

'Slightly' means 'a little', for example *"The restaurant is slightly expensive, but the food was good."* 'Slightly' is usually used with negative adjectives such as 'cold' or 'tired'.

'Pretty' and 'quite' mean more than a little, but not a lot. For example, *"The restaurant is quite expensive"* means more than 'slightly' but less than just 'expensive.'

'Really' and 'very' mean a lot. For example, *"The restaurant is very good"* is stronger than *"The restaurant is good."*

'Far too' and 'much too' mean something is much more than it should be. For example, "*This food is far too salty"* means the food is much saltier than it should be.

5. Read the reviews and find 3 places in each review to add one of the qualifiers above (there are more than 3 places in each review).

Bella Italia

I visited Bella Italia last Friday and had a really good experience. The restaurant is *quite* small, but the atmosphere is *pretty* friendly. My pasta was *slightly* salty, but it was still tasty. The portions were *very* large, so I couldn't finish everything. The service was *really* good, although the food was *far too* hot when it arrived, I burned my mouth! Overall, I would definitely come back.

The Green Garden

The Green Garden is a *very* nice restaurant with a beautiful outdoor area. The food was *pretty* fresh and the vegetables were *slightly* crunchy, which I liked. The restaurant was *quite* busy, but the staff were *really* friendly. However, my soup was *much too* salty and the dessert was *far too* sweet for me. On top of that, the prices were also *slightly* high. Still, I had a good evening.

Tony's Burger House

I went to Tony's Burger House with two friends, and we had a *really* fun evening. The burgers were *very* tasty and the fries were *pretty* good. The restaurant was *quite* noisy, but the atmosphere was friendly. My burger was *slightly* dry, and the fries were *far too* salty. The portions were *much too* big for one person. The service was *really* fast, so we didn't have to wait long. I'd probably visit again.

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6. Think about a restaurant you know and write a review of it. Try to use the qualifiers from the page above and discuss service, food, price, atmosphere, and anything else.

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7. You are going to listen to a discussion after the meal at 'Dinner in the Dark' which contains the vocabulary in the box. Use the vocabulary to complete the sentences below.

raspberry jam	decent	dumb	rude
atmosphere	glad	portions	unique

a) It was *rude* of him to leave without saying goodbye.

b) I'm *glad* you decided to come to the party.

c) The restaurant was cheap, and the food was quite *decent*, but not amazing.

d) I had *raspberry jam* on my toast for breakfast.

e) The restaurant has a relaxed and friendly *atmosphere.*

f) The *portions* at American restaurants are huge.

g) The chef created a *unique* dessert using chocolate, cheese, and fresh herbs.

h) I made a *dumb* mistake and accidentally ordered two desserts.

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8. Jacob and Lucy have finished their meal at 'Dinner in the Dark.' Listen to the conversation[2] and answer the questions.

a) What are the two ways Jacob hurts himself in the restaurant? *Hit his knee on the table and put his finger in the coffee.*

b) What was Lucy's complaint with the food? *She thinks was too small.*

c) What did Jacob order, and why was he surprised he liked it?

A beef burger with raspberry jam, he didn't think it would go together

d) What does Jacob think about the service in the restaurant?

Not good, the waiter was rude and the food took ages.

e) Why doesn't Jacob like the atmosphere in the restaurant? *It smells* *'t like the music, and the chairs are uncomfortable.*

f) Why aren't they going to tip? Would you tip in this situation? *Because of the rude waiter.*

9. Optional task/Homework:

Google 'The Infatuation' or go to www.theinfatuation.com and choose a city that you are interested in. Find a review for a restaurant and read it. Come back and tell the class about the restaurant. Write some notes below.

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[2] https://quick-and-easy-english.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Restaurant-2.mp3

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Transcript 1

Jacob: Hey did you have a look at the restaurants I sent to you? What did you think?

Lucy: Yeah, I did, they all look pretty interesting. Did you look up reviews for them?

Jacob: Ah no I didn't I just looked for restaurants near us that we haven't tried before on google maps.

Lucy: Ok I see…. I mean they all look pretty good, but I don't really want to go to The Mad Chicken.

Jacob: Why not? I thought you loved fried chicken?

Lucy: Of course I love fried chicken, everybody loves fried chicken, it's amazing… but do you really want to eat fried chicken for our anniversary dinner? I thought we could go somewhere a bit more fancy, a bit more romantic.

Jacob: I mean… fried chicken is pretty romantic to me. But ok, I see your point, Mad Chicken is off the list.

Lucy: The taco place look's good, what's it called again?

Jacob: Ah, Carlito's, yeah that looks great

Lucy: It does, and we both love Mexican cuisine, so that could be a good fit. But we would have to wait in line, all of the reviews say you have to wait for ages to get a table.

Jacob: Ah I hate waiting for food. Couldn't we just book a table?

Lucy: I checked, they don't take bookings.

Jacob: Really? That's weird. Well ok, not Carlito's, I don't want to wait in line for ages on our anniversary.

Lucy: Agreed. So that leaves the Nepalese place and the dark restaurant.

Jacob: I'm really curious about the Nepalese restaurant, I've never tried Nepalese cuisine before.

Lucy: Oh, it's great, lots of curries and soups and dumplings. But it is a vegetarian restaurant.

Jacob: Oh really? I didn't realise that.

Lucy: Yeah, actually it had quite a few negative reviews from people who were upset because they didn't realise it was a vegetarian restaurant before they went there.

Jacob: Honestly, I think it's a bit silly to get upset about that, vegetarian food can be great. But what about the Dinner in the Dark restaurant? To be honest I didn't really understand what that was?

Lucy: Yeah, I looked that up too. It's a bit weird, the idea is that you eat in complete darkness. I think it's something a bit different, and the fact that you can't see makes you focus more on the taste and the texture of the food.

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Jacob: Ok but then… how do the waiters serve your food? Wouldn't they trip over everything?

Lucy: Well apparently the waiters are all blind! That's how they can get around in a dark room, they're used to it!

Jacob: Oh, that's cool! I've never heard of anything like that before!

Lucy: Yeah, it's an interesting idea. So… Nepalese, or Dinner in the Dark?

Jacob: Mmm, I think Dinner in the Dark, it just sounds way more interesting, and it's our anniversary, we should do something a bit different.

Lucy: Ok great. Also could you wear that nice grey suit? You look really nice in that.

Jacob: Do I have to? It's really uncomfortable and it's not like anybody will see me wearing it!

Lucy: (Sigh) just wear it, Jacob. It's our anniversary and I want to be a bit fancy tonight.

Jacob: Ok sure, anything for you my dear.

Transcript 2

Jacob: Ow damn it!

Lucy: What?

Jacob: I hit my knee on the table. I can't see a thing!

Lucy: Yeah, that's the idea! Isn't this exciting??

Jacob: I mean… it's ok I guess. It took me ages to find the bathroom, and I tripped over two different people on the way there!

Lucy: I know, I heard you! That was pretty funny.

Jacob: Well I'm glad I could make you laugh!

Lucy: Be careful by the way, our coffee came while you were in in the bathroom.

Jacob: Ok, let me just find it… ow damn!

Lucy: What is it this time?

Jacob: I … I put my finger in the coffee. It's really hot.

Lucy: Oh, be careful!

Jacob: I was being careful, I just can't see anything! This restaurant was a such a dumb idea. We should have gone to the Nepalese one.

Lucy: I think it was fun! It was quite a unique experience.

Jacob: Well I'm glad you enjoyed it. Did you like the food?

Lucy: It was ok… but I feel like the portions were a bit small. I'm not sure though.

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Jacob: What do you mean you're not sure?

Lucy: Well, I ordered a chicken salad, and it seemed really small… but I'm not really sure how big it was because I couldn't see it!

Jacob: Ahhhh of course.

Lucy: And how was your burger?

Jacob: It was quite good actually, and big too. It was a beef burger with raspberry jam. I didn't think they would go together, but it actually tasted really good!

Lucy: So you do like this place then?

Jacob: I didn't say that. The food was decent.

Lucy: But?

Jacob: Well the service wasn't great. I feel like the waiter was a little bit rude, and the food took ages.

Lucy: That's true. How long did it take exactly?

Jacob: No idea. I can't see my watch.

Lucy: Of right, of course.

Jacob: So, the food was decent but not amazing, the service was not very good, and I have to say the atmosphere is not very good.

Lucy: How can you tell what the atmosphere is like if you can't see anything?

Jacob: I mean the atmosphere is more than just what you can see. The chairs are uncomfortable, I really don't like the music they're playing and… I have to say, it doesn't smell very good in here.

Lucy: Yeah you're right. I noticed that when we came in. Do you think we should leave a tip when we pay?

Jacob: Honestly, I don't think so. If the waiter was nicer I would leave a tip, but he seemed to be upset at us for even asking for food!

Lucy: Yeah good point. Ok, no tip then.

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