

# ISSUE 13

## Do You Like to Eat Out?

A few businesses seem to be recession-proof. It really doesn't matter whether times are good or bad, people will still eat out, they'll still drink alcohol, and they'll still gamble. They gamble to get rich, and if the economy is bad they'll be even more desperate to have lots of money. When times are good, people drink to celebrate; and when times are bad, they drink to forget. But they go to restaurants because it is a pleasant experience. It's easy to vary the diet: one day I can eat Greek food, and the next, Italian. Or even if I eat hamburgers every day, those at one fast-food chain are different than the ones at another. Eating in company with other people is always an enjoyable experience, especially if you know you don't have to wash the dishes afterwards.

### Why do you eat out?

- (1) For a change
- (2) I hate to cook and do the dishes.
- (3) It's not fun eating at home alone.
- (4) For more delicious food
- (5) The family likes to go out together once in a while.
- (6) To celebrate special days



-recession : time of weak economic activity

-proof : not to be affected

-gamble : bet money on the result of a game, contest, or other event

-desperate : willing to do or try anything due to a lack of hope

-vary : make changes

# Sample Answers

(A) When I got married, my wife and I made it a point to eat out once a week. We didn't have to go to an expensive restaurant — that was for special occasions — but we avoided the fast-food places. We'd go someplace quiet and get a table alone, and later with the kids. And we'd relax and talk about *pointless* things, just to enjoy being together. But then our schedules changed, and it became harder to eat out every week, and we lost a lot of the *intimacy* we once had. Eventually we *broke up*. I don't think we got a divorce because we didn't eat out very much any more, but I think if we had continued to do so we would have had a better chance of staying together.

(B) I'm sorry to say it, but my wife is a terrible cook. She can't even boil water successfully. So if we didn't regularly go out to eat, the whole family would either starve to death or die of food poisoning.

## Speak Your Mind

1. How often do you eat out?
2. Where do you usually go when you dine out?
3. Who decides what to eat?
4. Does the expense matter when you go to a restaurant? Why or why not?
5. Do you always eat out on a special day? Why or why not?
6. Explain why the number of people who eat out is on the rise.

- **pointless** : meaningless

- **intimacy** : close personal relationship

- **break up** : end a personal relationship; come to an end

## 6. Explain why the number of people who eat out is on the rise.

F : My, this place is crowded!

M : Yes. I can remember when we'd come here and be almost alone.

F : I wonder what's happened.

M : *Commerce is picking up*, I guess, so a lot of businesses are probably taking *prospective* clients out more often. The food here is always good, so they come here.

F : That's probably true. And I suppose that, as more and more women work, they don't have the time to cook at home, so they go out to eat.

M : Right. And also, I suspect that a lot of modern women never learned how to cook properly, so they are forced to eat out.

F : Unfortunately, I think you're right.

M : Yes, and so some of them, the ones who couldn't cook, saw their marriages break up. And so there are a lot more single people these days, and most of them don't want to go to the trouble of fixing their own meals by themselves. It's just a lot more convenient for them to eat out.

F : What about us? Why do we eat out?

M : So we can share a nice experience together and keep our romance alive.

F : I was hoping you'd say that!

M : I suspected it was a test. I'm glad I passed.

F : So, let's eat!

