

Lesson 02: Which Restaurant?

Nate and Andrew are two Army soldiers who are trying to decide where to eat on their days off. First, listen to their conversation and try to answer the questions below:

Listening Comprehension

1. At the Chinese restaurant, Nate wants to eat...

- a. sweet and sour chicken
- b. noodles
- c. pork fried rice

2. At the Italian restaurant, Andrew wants to eat...

- a. lasagna
- b. ravioli
- c. spaghetti

3. Where did Andrew go last weekend?

- a. to his parents' house
- b. to a Chinese restaurant
- c. to another Army base

4. Nate was punished because he...

- a. disobeyed an officer
- b. failed to clean his room
- c. brought chocolate into the residence

5. Andrew and Nate decide to go to...

- a. the Chinese restaurant
- b. the Italian restaurant
- c. both restaurants

6. Andrew thinks Army food is...

- a. terrible
- b. decent
- c. delicious

Conversation Text

Nate: Mmmm... I can't wait to order a huge plate of those sweet and sour noodles. I've been **craving** Chinese food for the past week.

Andrew: **No way**, man, we're gonna have some Italian food. If I don't get some lasagna **pronto**, I'm gonna **have a fit**.

Nate: You and your lasagna. Didn't your mom just make lasagna, when you went home for a visit?

Andrew: Nah, she stuffed me full of Thai food. Not that I'm complaining. The food was good and all... but I really **had my heart set on** some lasagna.

Nate: Come on, Andrew, you have to be fair. I've been eating Army food for months now. At least you got to go home last weekend.

Andrew: Hey, you're the one that **got busted** and had your **leave** taken away... what were you thinking **sneaking** chocolate bars into the **barracks**, anyway?

Nate: Forget about the chocolate bars. I'm talking Chinese food. At Mr. Chen's restaurant.

Andrew: All right, all right, **chill out**. Here's what we'll do. We have two days' leave, right?

Nate: Yeah, two days.

Vocabulary

craving = strongly desiring

No way = an informal strong way to say no

pronto = (slang) very fast, very soon

have a fit = become very upset

had my heart set on = especially wanted something special

got busted = (slang) got caught doing something bad, got in trouble

leave = time off for members of the military

sneaking = doing something in secret

barracks = place where members of the military live

chill out = relax, calm down

Andrew: Okay, so here's the plan. Today we'll **hit** Mr. Chen's Chinese **buffet** and **eat till we burst**. And then tomorrow we'll go to an Italian restaurant for a plate of steaming hot lasagna.

Nate: You know what, now that I think about it, the Italian place is closer to the **base** than Mr. Chen's. **It's cool** if we stop there first.

Andrew: Nah, **no worries**, man. My lasagna can wait. I've actually never been to Mr. Chen's.

Nate: You haven't?! Aw, **you're in for a treat!** I don't know what kind of secret sauce he uses, but the noodles are addictive.

Andrew: Sure **beats** Army food, huh? When I went home last weekend I **popped into** an old burger **joint** where I used to hang out with my **buddies**. The burgers were **swimming in grease...** but after eating Army food, they were like a taste of heaven.

Nate: Well, now my stomach's **rumbling**. Let's get outta here and get some **grub**.

Andrew: Watch out, Mr. Chen, here come two hungry soldiers!

Vocabulary

hit = (slang) go to a place

buffet = a restaurant where you can serve yourself from a large selection of foods

eat till we burst = eat a lot, until we can't eat anymore

base = military area

It's cool = it's OK

no worries = don't worry about it

you're in for a treat = you will have a special, wonderful experience

beats = is better than

popped into = quickly stopped inside a place

joint = (slang) restaurant

buddies = friends

swimming in grease = extremely greasy / oily

rumbling = making low noises

grub = (slang) food

Vocabulary Quiz

Complete each sentence with the correct word. Two words are not used.

beats
buddies
chill out

craving
got busted
had a fit

heart set
in for a treat
no way

pop into
rumbling
sneak

1. After eating all that spicy food, I was _____ a nice, cold glass of iced tea.
2. Billy was suspended from school after he _____ cheating on a test for the third time.
3. Can you believe my brother asked me to lend him \$1000? I told him, " _____!" I don't have that kind of cash on hand.
4. He gets all offended when anyone makes changes to his work. He needs to _____.
5. My five-year-old _____ when his favorite toy broke.
6. Sabrina has her _____ on being an actress. No other profession interests her.
7. Wait for me - I'm just gonna _____ that store across the street and buy a drink.
8. We spent our vacation hiking in the mountains - definitely _____ sitting in an office all day!
9. When I was a teenager, I used to _____ out of the house at night in order to go party with my friends.
10. You got tickets to Cirque du Soliel? You're _____ - it's a spectacular show.

Speaking Task

Describe three foods you like, three foods you dislike, and one food that you would like to try. Are you a “picky eater” (only enjoy certain specific foods), or do you eat everything? Record your answer at www.speakpipe.com/espressoenglish or send the MP3 to me at homework@espressoenglish.net to get my feedback!

Answers

Comprehension Questions

1. b
2. a
3. a
4. c
5. c
6. a

Vocabulary Quiz

1. craving
2. got busted
3. no way
4. chill out
5. had a fit
6. heart set
7. pop into
8. beats
9. sneak
10. in for a treat