

## Lesson 37: Different Tastes

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*Two friends, Grace and Erica, discuss their preferences. Listen to their conversation and mark the statements below "True" or "False":*

### **Listening Comprehension**

*True or false according to the conversation?*

1. Grace had a very busy weekend
2. Erica went to the Lucky Lark with her boyfriend
3. There is plenty of space inside the café
4. Erica was not pleased with the service
5. Erica was given the wrong dish twice
6. Grace thinks the Dragon's Den is awful
7. Erica especially likes the pizza there
8. The Dragon's Den is always full during the day
9. Erica has never tried Mexican food
10. Erica agrees to have lunch with Grace

## Conversation Text

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**Erica:** Hey Grace. How was your weekend?

**Grace:** Mmm, pretty **uneventful**. We spent most of it **tinkering** with our new sound system, trying to get it all set up. Oh! We did **stop by** that new café near the library – it's called the Lucky Lark. Have you heard of it?

**Erica:** Yeah, my boyfriend **dragged me** there last week. **Not my cup of tea**.

**Grace:** What? Why? The seating area's a little **cramped**, but we thought it was **charming**. I loved all the old movie posters on the walls. And the food was terrific.

**Erica:** I don't know, it just seems like it's trying too hard to be **trendy**. And when we went, our server seemed **absent-minded** – she forgot our drinks twice.

**Grace:** Well, the place is new, and I'm sure they're still trying to **work out the kinks** in the system.

### Vocabulary

**uneventful** = not busy, not much happened

**tinkering** = making small attempts to fix or change a machine or system

**stop by** = visit quickly

**dragged me** = brought me when I didn't want to go

**not my cup of tea** = I didn't like it

**cramped** = there is little space

**charming** = nice, enjoyable, pleasant

**trendy** = fashionable, cool

**absent-minded** = forgetful, distracted

**work out the kinks** = resolve the small problems or mistakes

**Erica:** **While they're at it**, they might want to pay a little more attention to their food. It was **hit and miss** – the pasta my boyfriend ordered was all right, but I got a sandwich and the bread was **stale**.

**Grace:** So why didn't you send it back?

**Erica:** Eh, we were already running late, so I just decided to **grin and bear it**. I just don't get how they can charge so much for **crummy** service and food that's only **so-so**.

**Grace:** I thought it was **worth every penny**. They have a really creative **cocktail** menu, and we thought all the food was really inventive and fresh. We got this amazing cucumber and peach salad, **steamed** brussels sprouts with apple sauce, and stuffed butternut squash.

**Erica:** **To each their own**. I'd rather go to the Dragon's Den any day.

**Grace:** Ugh, that **hole in the wall**? It's so dark and **grungy**.

## Vocabulary

**While they're at it** = while they are doing that

**hit and miss** = sometimes good, sometimes bad; not consistently good

**stale** = if bread is stale, it means it is old and hard, not very fresh

**grin and bear it** = stay in a good mood while enduring a bad situation

**crummy** = bad

**so-so** = mediocre, not very good

**worth every penny** = valuable enough to justify the price

**cocktail** = mixed drinks (ex. alcohol and fruit juice)

**steamed** = cooked with water vapor

**to each their own** = every person has their own preferences

**hole in the wall** = a small place

**grungy** = dirty, smelly

**Erica:** But they have huge cheeseburgers, and the best chicken wings in the state. And the service is super-fast.

**Grace:** Probably because you're the only one in there. It's a mystery to me how that place even **keeps the lights on**.

**Erica:** They pull a big late-night crowd. **Things start picking up** around midnight.

**Grace:** Ah, that makes sense. People who are **wasted** aren't as **picky** about their food. And they don't care if the kitchen is **infested** with cockroaches.

**Erica:** All I know is that you can **eat your fill** for less than ten bucks, and the people who hang out there aren't **pretentious**.

**Grace:** You don't have to be pretentious to enjoy healthy food. Do they even serve salad at the Dragon's Den?

**Erica:** They put lettuce and tomato on the burgers.

**Grace:** That doesn't count. Is that all you're willing to eat? Burgers?

## Vocabulary

**keeps the lights on** = stays in business (has enough money to pay the bills, such as the electric bill)

**things start picking up** = the amount of activity starts increasing

**wasted** = (*slang*) drunk

**picky** = selective

**infested** = full of insects

**eat your fill** = eat as much as you need to satisfy your hunger

**pretentious** = claiming or behaving as if you are superior to others

**Erica:** Nope. I like Mexican food, too.

**Grace:** OK. I know a Mexican place **downtown**,  
wanna go there for lunch?

**Erica:** Depends. Do they have normal Mexican food?  
None of this **fusion** cuisine **nonsense**?

**Grace:** No fusion, but it's mostly a **vegan** Mexican  
place.

**Erica:** Oh. Then **I'll pass**. I'm not eating a taco full of  
radishes. I'll be hungry again in an hour.

**Grace:** It's not *totally* vegan. They have fish tacos.  
Come on... **my treat**.

**Erica:** Well... all right. I'll give this place a try. Hope  
they have good guacamole.

## Vocabulary

**downtown** = in the city  
center

**fusion** =  
combining/mixing two  
things

**nonsense** = something  
that is silly and not to  
be taken seriously

**vegan** = not  
using/eating any animal  
products at all

**I'll pass** = I won't  
accept this  
invitation/opportunity

**my treat** = I'll pay for  
you

## Vocabulary Quiz

*Complete each sentence with a word from the box. Three words are not used.*

<b>absent-minded</b>	<b>hit and miss</b>	<b>picky</b>	<b>wasted</b>
<b>dragging me</b>	<b>nonsense</b>	<b>so-so</b>	<b>working out the kinks</b>
<b>grin and bear it</b>	<b>pass</b>	<b>stop by</b>	<b>worth every penny</b>
<b>grungy</b>	<b>picking up</b>	<b>tinkering</b>	

1. I really hate being around my cousin, but at my sister's wedding I just had to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. We can't use a machine whose safety record is \_\_\_\_\_. Our equipment has to be completely reliable.
3. My parents are going on vacation; they might \_\_\_\_\_ around 10 to say goodbye.
4. Leather jackets may be pricey, but they're \_\_\_\_\_ because they last a long time.
5. My dad is an engineer and he's always enjoyed \_\_\_\_\_ with his car.
6. I thought the movie was \_\_\_\_\_. It was somewhat entertaining, but I probably wouldn't watch it again.
7. Our ice cream shop doesn't get many customers in the winter, but when the weather gets warm then things start \_\_\_\_\_.
8. That's the third time this week you've locked your keys in the car! How can you be so \_\_\_\_\_?
9. I don't have much free time, so I'm very \_\_\_\_\_ about what I choose to commit to.
10. We're still \_\_\_\_\_ in the new software; it's not quite ready for public release.
11. I'll \_\_\_\_\_ on the appetizers. I'm not very hungry.
12. There was free beer at the concert, and most of the people there just wanted to get \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Speaking Task**

Describe your last weekend – what did you do? How did you spend your time? Do you ever work on the weekends, or do you avoid it?

Record your answer at [www.speakpipe.com/espressoenglish](http://www.speakpipe.com/espressoenglish) or send your MP3 to [homework@espressoenglish.net](mailto:homework@espressoenglish.net) for feedback!

## **Answers**

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. False
6. True
7. False
8. False
9. False
10. True

### **Vocabulary Quiz**

1. grin and bear it
2. hit and miss
3. stop by
4. worth every penny
5. tinkering
6. so-so
7. picking up
8. absent-minded
9. picky
10. working out the kinks
11. pass
12. wasted