

Better tables for beautiful people in Paris restaurants

10th November, 2013



Two trendy restaurants in Paris give good-looking people better tables than not-so-good-looking people. This is according to staff who used

to work at the two eateries. The former employees told a Parisian newspaper about the restaurants' seating policy. They said: "The good-looking customers are led to the good places, where they can be easily seen; the non-good-looking ones must be seated in the corners of the room." This rule did not apply to celebrity diners. The rule for them was that, "pretty or ugly, old or young," they got the good tables. Even the waiters and waitresses were employed based on looks. One ex-waitress said: "Anyone short, without a model's physique and over 30 need not apply."

The ex-staff members said the restaurant owners wanted to make sure the restaurant had a good image by seating attractive guests in easy-to-see places. They said the restaurants' owner would visit regularly to make sure his 'beauty policy' was working. If he saw someone whose face he didn't like at a good table, he would tell the staff: "There are good-looking people, you put them here; there are bad-looking people, you put them there." Furthermore, staff could not promise to give a table to customers who telephoned to make a booking, just in case they were not beautiful. Staff only decided where to seat them after they came to the restaurant and looked at their faces.

Sources: *The Telegraph* / *The Daily Mail*

Writing

"Good-looking" people have a better life than "normal-looking" people. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

trendy / restaurants / good-looking people / seating policy / celebrities / physique / staff / beauty / regularly / promise / customers / telephoned / booking / faces

True / False

- Most restaurants in Paris seat attractive diners at good tables. T / F
- Staff at two restaurants refused to talk to a Parisian newspaper. T / F
- Old celebrities at two Paris restaurants are given good tables. T / F
- You cannot become a waiter at the two restaurants if you are aged 32. T / F
- The restaurant put good-looking people in seats others could see them. T / F
- The owner of the restaurants rarely visited them. T / F
- It is easy to book your favourite table at the restaurants by telephone. T / F
- Staff seated people who booked by phone after looking at their faces. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. trendy | a. body |
| 2. good-looking | b. certain |
| 3. former | c. reservation |
| 4. policy | d. ex- |
| 5. physique | e. fashionable |
| 6. sure | f. place |
| 7. regularly | g. system |
| 8. furthermore | h. frequently |
| 9. booking | i. in addition |
| 10. seat (verb) | j. attractive |

Discussion – Student A

- Is it a good idea to put the beautiful people where they can be seen?
- What happens to a group if half are beautiful and half are not?
- What would you like to tell the owners?
- Do you have a favourite table at a restaurant?
- How important is it to choose your table in a restaurant?
- Is the world going image / good-looking crazy?
- What questions would you like to ask the restaurants' owners?
- What do you think their answers might be?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. This is according | a. on looks |
| 2. The good-looking customers are led | b. in easy-to-see places |
| 3. This rule did not | c. had a good image |
| 4. waitresses were employed based | d. a table to customers |
| 5. a model's | e. apply to celebrity diners |
| 6. make sure the restaurant | f. to make a booking |
| 7. seating attractive guests | g. to staff |
| 8. promise to give | h. physique |
| 9. customers who telephoned | i. seat them |
| 10. decided where to | j. to the good places |

Discussion – Student B

- Do you often go to trendy restaurants?
- How does a restaurant become trendy?
- What do you think of the restaurants' seating policy?
- Will you wonder if the wait staff showed you to a table in the corner?
- Will you think about your table next time you go to a restaurant?
- Would you ask to sit at a good table?
- Do you want to test your beauty by visiting the restaurants?
- Is it OK to hire staff based on looks?

Spelling

- Two ndyter restaurants
- This is ardgoncic to staff
- former oyseeelmp
- This rule did not lapyp
- yritbeelc diners
- a model's hspyieug
- araectvtti guests
- visit lalrgeuyr
- beauty loipyc
- staff could not rspomei
- make a kongboi
- just in case they were not tbfeuulia

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. j	3. d	4. g	5. a
6. b	7. h	8. i	9. c	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Atmosphere

You think the atmosphere is the most important thing when eating at a restaurant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a wide menu choice, food coming quickly or the manager greeting you.

Role B – Wide menu choice

You think a wide menu choice is the most important thing when eating at a restaurant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the atmosphere, food coming quickly or the manager greeting you.

Role C – Food comes quickly

You think food coming quickly is the most important thing when eating at a restaurant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a wide menu choice, the atmosphere or the manager greeting you.

Role D – Manager says hello

You think the manager greeting you is the most important thing when eating at a restaurant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a wide menu choice, food coming quickly or the atmosphere.

Speaking - Restaurants

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most important things at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| • atmosphere | • very friendly wait staff |
| • wide menu choice | • good music |
| • food comes quickly | • delicious food |
| • manager says hello | • price |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.