



Discussing opinions

Lesson code: 119C-L6C8-K56R

UPPER INTERMEDIATE +

 American English

1 Warm-up

What type of food do you prefer? What are your favorite restaurants in your town/city? Why?

2 Talking about food

Match the following words to their correct definitions:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. rich | a. a basic food, e.g. bread or cheese. |
| 2. cuisine | b. a style of cooking |
| 3. staple | c. carrying or holding a lot of (butter, oil, cream, etc.) |
| 4. laden with... | d. containing a large amount of heavy ingredients such as butter, oil, cream, etc. |
| 5. variety | e. lacking in taste |
| 6. bland | f. looking or smelling delicious |
| 7. mouthwatering | g. many different types of things or people |

3 Restaurant conversation

Emma and Mark are in a restaurant, discussing different cuisines from different countries. Listen to their conversation and write down what the speakers described as:

1. 'mouthwatering' (French dishes)
2. 'very well suited to modern living'
3. 'better suited to current lifestyles'
4. 'simple and quick to prepare'
5. 'a bit too rich'
6. 'absolutely delicious'
7. 'not bad'
8. 'fantastic'
9. 'a little bland'
10. 'Just OK?'



4 Opinions, agreeing, and disagreeing

Study the expressions below and their functions. Listen to the discussion again and tick the expressions that you hear.

Asking for an opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly agreeing	<input type="checkbox"/>
How do you feel about...?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absolutely!	<input type="checkbox"/>
What do you reckon?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exactly!	<input type="checkbox"/>
What do you think of...?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agreeing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Giving an opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd go along with that.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I think...	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd have to agree with you on that.	<input type="checkbox"/>
If you ask me,...	<input type="checkbox"/>	I see what you mean.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personally,...	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mildly agreeing	<input type="checkbox"/>
From my point of view,...	<input type="checkbox"/>	I suppose so.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I find it...	<input type="checkbox"/>	I guess you're right.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly disagreeing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diplomatically disagreeing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oh, come on!	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'm not sure about that.	<input type="checkbox"/>
No way!	<input type="checkbox"/>	That's not quite true.	<input type="checkbox"/>

5 Practice

Complete these mini-dialogues using the phrases above:

- A:** From _____, social networking sites like Facebook are a waste of time.
B: I'm _____ that. I _____ them rather useful.
- A:** What _____ classical music?
B: _____, it's not my favorite music.
- A:** It's very important to exercise every day.
B: A _____!
- A:** The best way to learn a language is to live in the country where it's spoken. What _____?
B: I _____ so. But most people don't have the choice.
- A:** I _____ the best movies are made in Hollywood.
B: No _____!
- A:** If you _____, there's too much violence on television.
B: I'd g_____ that.

Listen to check. In pairs take turns to read aloud each dialogue. Pay attention to intonation.



6 Role play

In pairs or groups, choose a topic from the list below and discuss it, sharing your opinions and agreeing/disagreeing with each other:

What type of sport you prefer

What type of music you like

The best places to go out in your town

The best ways to learn a new language

The best places to go on vacation

The best movies of all time



3 Restaurant conversation

Emma: Personally, I prefer French cuisine. There is such a variety of mouthwatering dishes, whether you have time to enjoy a 3-course meal or if you're in a hurry and need a quick snack. It's very well suited to modern living.

Mark: I'm not sure about that. I think Italian food is better suited to current lifestyles. Plenty of tasty Italian dishes, especially pasta dishes, are simple and quick to prepare. With a lot of French food, you have to put in plenty of effort.

Emma: I see what you mean. You're better off going to a French restaurant or bistro than trying to cook a proper French dish at home. Especially if you're in a rush.

Mark: Exactly. But apart from that, French dishes are a bit too rich for me.

Emma: Too rich? That's not quite true. Not all French food is laden with butter or cream, you know. In the Provence region, they mainly use olive oil instead of butter. Some of the dishes I tried when I was over there were absolutely delicious. And as far as simplicity is concerned, everyday food in France is great - bread, cheese...

Mark: I'd have to agree with you on that. The French staples are not bad. What do you think of oriental cuisine, for example Japanese?

Emma: Personally, I love seafood. The sushi and rice dishes I've tried in Japanese restaurants are just fantastic. So I'd definitely rate Japanese food high on my list. What do you reckon?

Mark: I suppose so, if you like seafood. I find it a little bland. I'm more of a meat-eater, so I just love Greek and Arabic food. You just can't beat grilled meat.

Emma: Yeah, it's OK.

Mark: Oh come on. Just OK?



2 Talking about food

1. d 2. b 3. a 4. c 5. g 6. e 7. f

3 Restaurant conversation

Play the audio file or use your mobile device to scan the QR code (make sure you have installed a QR code reader app and can access the internet on your device).

1. 'very well suited to modern living': French cuisine
2. 'better suited to current lifestyles': Italian food
3. 'simple and quick to prepare': Italian dishes
4. 'a bit too rich': French dishes
5. 'absolutely delicious': the dishes from the Provence region of France
6. 'not bad': French staples
7. 'fantastic': Japanese sushi and rice dishes
8. 'a little bland': seafood
9. 'Just OK?': Greek/Arabic food, grilled meat

4 Opinions, agreeing, and disagreeing

- ✓ What do you reckon?
- ✓ Exactly!
- ✓ What do you think of...?
- ✓ I think...
- ✓ I'd have to agree with you on that.
- ✓ I see what you mean.
- ✓ Personally,...
- ✓ I suppose so.
- ✓ I find it...
- ✓ Oh, come on!
- ✓ I'm not sure about that.
- ✓ That's not quite true.

5 Practice

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. my point of view; not sure about that; find | 2. do you think of; Personally |
| 3. Absolutely | 4. do you reckon; suppose |
| 5. think; way | 6. ask me; go along with |
| 7. g | |

After students have completed the dialogues individually or in pairs, play the audio file or scan the QR code.

