

Learning English podcasts ... from the
Hellenic American Union©

Level: Advanced

Lesson: 39

Title: "Restaurant Business"

Summary:

Vanessa and Lisa discuss about how to be a successful restaurant owner.

In this episode of World Report Vanessa and Lisa are in the middle of a live show in a radio studio. Listen to their conversation and answer the question that follows about the main idea.

Dialogue:

VANESSA: Owning a restaurant these days can be quite **a profitable venture**, but sometimes it can turn out to be a total disaster. Lisa has some appetizers for us.



LISA: Restaurants are a make or break business. So you can either **make it big** or lose the lot.

VANESSA: What's the secret to the restaurant success anyway Lisa? Management, skillful chefs, set up? Or is it the "secret herbs and spices" recipe?



LISA: Obviously the **culinary talent** of the chef plays a significant role, but management, decoration and set up are also contributing factors to a thriving business.



VANESSA: The thing is people always try to combine food with leisure, so dining out seems quite appealing to all. It's a rather social event I would say.



LISA: That's a fact Vanessa and that's where all restauranteurs are putting all their money, after choosing quality over quantity. A fancy little patisserie, warm and friendly company, over an exquisite bottle of vintage red wine! Can you think of a better night out?



VANESSA: Mmm, sounds **scrumptious!** Honestly speaking though, the perfect combo would be **top notch food** in a top notch joint.



LISA: I know the perfect joint Vanessa, just around the corner. Wanna grab some lunch?

VANESSA: I'm all for it Lisa. Let's go! Sorry folks but **we're ravenous.** Bye for now.

LISA: Bye and bon appetit!



Now answer the following question

What are Lisa and Vanessa discussing?

They are talking about the secret to the success of a restaurant

Now listen again to the dialogue in parts. After each part there will be 3 to 4 questions on some details

Part 1

VANESSA: Owning a restaurant these days can be quite **a profitable venture**, but sometimes it can turn out to be a total disaster. Lisa has some appetizers for us.

LISA: Restaurants are a make or break business. So you can either **make it big** or lose the lot.

VANESSA: What's the secret to the restaurant success anyway Lisa? Management, skillful chefs, set up? Or is it the "secret herbs and spices" recipe?

LISA: Obviously the **culinary talent** of the chef plays a significant role, but management, decoration and set up are also contributing factors to a thriving business.

VANESSA: The thing is people always try to combine food with leisure, so dining out seems quite appealing to all. It's a rather social event I would say.

Now answer some questions

1. Vanessa says "Owning a restaurant these days can be quite **a profitable venture**". What does "a profitable venture" mean?

"A profitable venture" is a business opportunity that makes a lot of money.

2. Lisa says "You can either **make it big** or lose the lot." What does "make it big" mean?

"Make it big" means be successful.

3. Lisa says "The **culinary talent** of the chef play a significant role". What is "culinary talent"?

"Culinary talent" is your ability to cook well.

Now listen to the second part of the dialogue...

Part 2

LISA: That's a fact Vanessa and that's where all restauranters are putting all their money, after choosing quality over quantity. A fancy little Patisserie, warm and friendly company, over an exquisite bottle of vintage red wine! Can you think of a better night out?

VANESSA: Mmm, sounds **scrumptious!** Honestly speaking though, the perfect combo would be **top notch** food in a top notch joint.

LISA: I know the perfect joint Vanessa, just around the corner. Wanna grab some lunch?

VANESSA: I'm all for it Lisa. Let's go! Sorry folks but **we're ravenous.** Bye for now.

LISA: Bye and bon appetite!

Now answer some questions...

1. Vanessa says "Mmm, sounds **scrumptious**". What does "scrumptious" mean?

"Scrumptious" means delicious.

2. Vanessa says "The perfect combo would be **top notch** food in a top notch joint." What does "top notch" mean?

"Top notch" means first class or of premium quality.

3. Vanessa says "**We're ravenous**". What does "ravenous" mean?

"Ravenous" means extremely hungry.

Please visit our site at www.hau.gr to find the transcripts, explanations and activities.

GLOSSARY

Appealing (adj.): **Appealing** means attractive or interesting. The opposite is **unappealing**.

Appetizers (N.): **Appetizers** a small amount of food eaten before a meal.

Combo (N.): A **Combo** is an informal word for a combination, usually used for food or clothes.

Culinary (adj.): **Culinary** means connected with cooking or the kitchen. It is a rather formal word.

Exquisite (adj.): If something is **exquisite** it is very beautiful and delicate.

Make it big: If you **make it big** you become famous or successful.

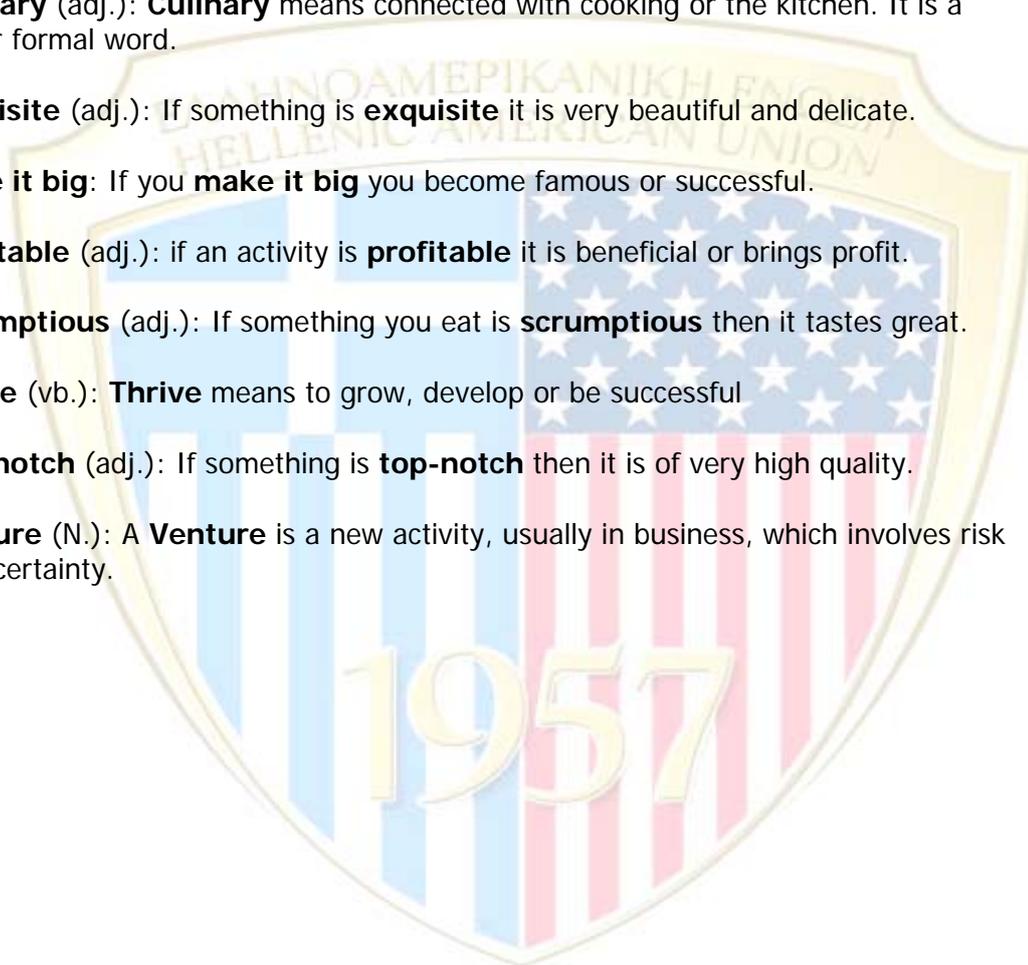
Profitable (adj.): if an activity is **profitable** it is beneficial or brings profit.

Scrumptious (adj.): If something you eat is **scrumptious** then it tastes great.

Thrive (vb.): **Thrive** means to grow, develop or be successful

Top-notch (adj.): If something is **top-notch** then it is of very high quality.

Venture (N.): A **Venture** is a new activity, usually in business, which involves risk or uncertainty.



ACTIVITIES

Activity 1

Choose the most appropriate aforementioned word or expression to fill in each blank. You may need to change the form of the word (e.g. from a noun to a verb)

1. I made _____ use of my time mixing with a lot of different people and practicing my Spanish.
2. She advised us to look abroad for more lucrative business _____.
3. My _____ skills are rather limited, I'm afraid
4. His business _____ in the years before the war.
5. The idea of not having to get up early every morning is rather _____.
6. I'll have the burrito and taco _____, please.
7. He _____ on Wall Street, and then lost the lot in the economic downturn.
8. Look at this _____ painting.
9. Try one of these _____ cream cakes.
10. That restaurant's really _____.

Activity 2

A. Consider the following explanations:

Vanessa says "Mmm, sounds scrumptious!" **Mmm** and **Sounds** are used here to express exclamations of approval. Another way of expressing exclamations is with *what + noun* and *how + adjective*:

What a mess!

What a surprise!

What terrible weather!

How awful!

How amazing!

How nice of her!

It is also possible to express reactions such as surprise, approval or disgust etc. using exclamations or short phrases. These are some of the most common:

Approval: Great! Superb! Mmm!

Disapproval: Rubbish! Nonsense! What are you talking about?

Irritation: Damn! Blast! For God's sake!

Surprise: Wow! Gosh! You're joking! No way!

Disgust: Ugh! Yuk! That's ghastly!

B. React to these statements, using a suitable exclamation.

1. The kitchen had scraps of food on the floor and dirty dishes in the sink.
2. A cup of coffee in that café costs over 8 Euro.

3. They eat the intestines of a sheep fried in fat and milk, with a chocolate sauce.
4. It was his first day as a waiter and someone tipped him 20 Euro.
5. Men make the best chefs because they're more creative than women.
6. The restaurant was going well until it burnt down and he had no insurance.



KEY TO ACTIVITIES

Activity 1

1. profitable
2. ventures
3. culinary
4. thrived
5. appealing
6. combo
7. made it big
8. exquisite
9. scrumptious
10. top-notch

Activity 2B (possible answers)

1. What a mess!
2. How extravagant!
3. Sounds disgusting!
4. No way!
5. What rubbish!
6. How awful!

