



RESTAURANT ONLY WANTS
THE BEAUTIFUL
WOULD YOU EAT AT THIS PLACE?

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1311/131110-french-restaurants.html>

Warm-up

- What kinds of *factors* do you consider when you attend a restaurant?
- Would you eat at a place that gave *preference* to attractive people?
- What makes people attractive?
- When you go out to eat, what makes a “good table”?
- Would you complain if you received a bad table?

- Do you know these words?
- trendy / restaurants / good-looking people / seating policy / celebrities / physique / staff / beauty / regularly / promise / customers / telephoned / booking / faces

For Beautiful People Only



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."

What is the first drawback you can think of with such a policy?

Think of the places you dine at. What do you think is the average age of the servers, whether they are male or female?

Their “beauty policy”



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.

If you could give the owner a bit of advice, what would it be?

What would matter more to you as a restaurant owner, the image of the patrons or the quality of the food?

Vocabulary

- *Factors-something that contributes to or has an influence on the outcome of something*
- *Trendy-currently fashionable*
- *Preference-selection of somebody or something; the view that one person, objects, or course of action is more desirable than another*
- *Physique-body shape*
- *Notion-idea or concept*
- *Image-actual or mental picture*

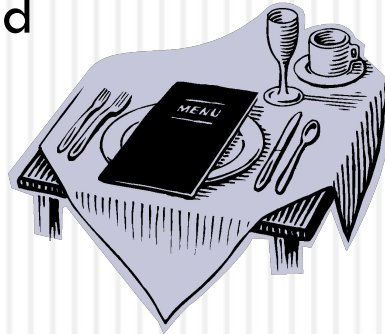
Pros and cons



- In your opinion, what are some flaws with this idea?
- Are there any merits to this idea?
- "There are good-looking people, you put them here; there are bad-looking people, you put them there." What do you say to this *notion*?
- Would you go to this place to eat?

What matters to you?

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

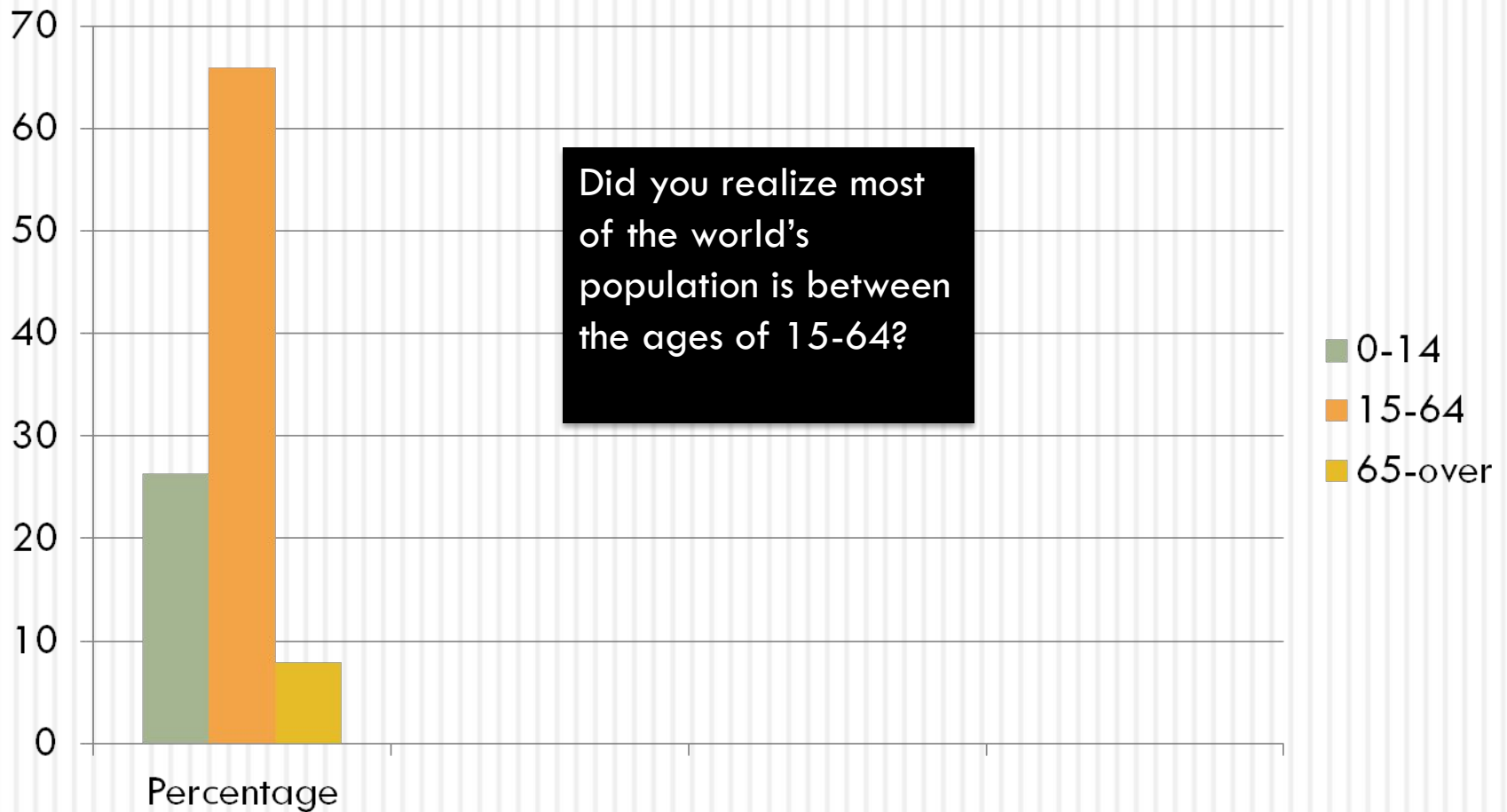


- Dialog:
 - Manager: Welcome to “Cher Marie.” Would you care to take a seat now or are you waiting for others?
 - Customer: I’d like a seat now please.
 - Manager: Right this way. Your server will be with you momentarily. She will tell you the daily specials. May I get you something to drink?
 - Customer: Yes, I’d like an ice tea with lemon.
 - Tell what happens next!

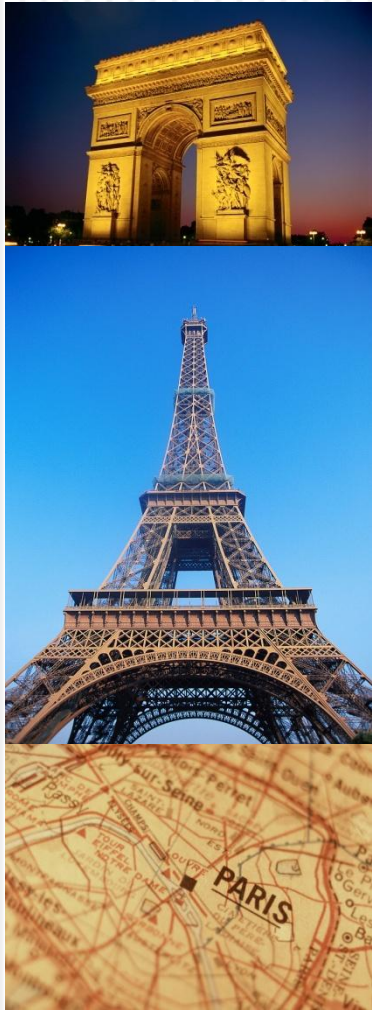
Your thoughts please!

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'good-looking'?
- c) Do you often go to trendy restaurants?
- d) How does a restaurant become trendy?
- e) What do you think of the restaurants' seating policy?
- f) Will you wonder if the wait staff showed you to a table in the corner?
- g) Will you think about your table next time you go to a restaurant?
- h) Would you ask to sit at a good table?
- i) Do you want to test your beauty by visiting the restaurants?
- j) Is it OK to hire staff based on looks?

World demographics



After this lesson, what are your thoughts?



- What did you feel about the idea of only seating beautiful people?
- What advice would you give to the people of Paris that visit this place?
- What is your favorite expression about beauty?

Test your knowledge!



1. Who told a newspaper about the good-looking-people story?

- a) former staff
- b) customers
- c) journalists
- d) the restaurants' owners

2. What did the restaurants' owners want to make certain of?

- a) the decor
- b) the taste of the food
- c) the ambience
- d) the restaurants' image

3. Where is the newspaper based?

- a) online
- b) in the restaurants
- c) Paris
- d) Geneva

4. How often would one of the owners visit?

- a) once in a blue moon
- b) frequently
- c) when celebrities came
- d) every July 14

Your last thoughts?



Beauty

Do core values about beauty change from year to year?

What values do you think are important?

Do you think the restaurant in Paris will suffer as well?

What would you want to have as the “take away” if you owned a business?

References



- [Content](#) (thanks to BreakingNewsEnglish)