



Photo by Claudette Buelow

“David leads me to the big round table in the middle of the restaurant. A table which, like many others, holds memories for me.”

1 Hunan Chef

Before Listening

ORIENTATION

Tell your group about a “regular” restaurant you used to go to. First, describe the restaurant. For example, tell your group about the type of food, the atmosphere, and the prices. Then explain why it was the right place for you. How do you feel when you think about it now?

When you are finished, your group will have a chance to share what you discussed with the class.

VOCABULARY

The following words and phrases all have to do with restaurants. Which of them do you already know? Work with your group to fill in the appropriate word from the box on the line after each definition. If no one in your group can find the answer, you may use a dictionary. The first one has been done for you as an example.

sip	diced
leftovers	savor
complimentary	to settle the bill
carafe	to pick up the tab
sliced	to pay the check
famished	

1. an *adjective* that means, “very hungry, almost starving.” famished
2. a *verb* that means “eat slowly and really enjoy the taste.”

3. a *noun* that refers to something that you can serve wine in.

4. two *verbs* that describe ways meat or vegetables can be cut.
_____ ; _____
5. an *adjective* that means “free” or “on the house”; you don’t have to pay for it.

6. a *noun* that refers to food which will be saved and eaten on another day.

7. a *verb* that means to drink slowly or in small amounts. _____
8. two phrases that mean to pay for your meal. _____ ;

9. one phrase that means to pay for someone else’s meal. _____

Listening and Understanding

INTRODUCTION

David Isay, the narrator of all of the broadcasts in this book, eats regularly at Hunan Chef, a small restaurant in his neighborhood. This broadcast was recorded one night when he called up for a delivery and got some bad news. In this story, David spends some time having dinner at Hunan Chef and sharing his memories of a place that has been like a home away from home for him.

FIRST LISTENING: PREDICTING

Before listening to the broadcast, predict what the answer to each of the following questions will be. Write your response on the lines provided.

1. What kind of food must Hunan Chef serve? _____

2. Why might the restaurant be going out of business? _____

3. How much do you think Crispy Orange Chicken probably costs?

Listen to the broadcast to check the answers to your predictions. Don't worry about understanding everything in the story. You'll have a chance to hear it again.

LISTENING FOR COMPREHENSION

Read over the following questions and see whether there are any that you can answer from your first listening. Then listen to the broadcast again to check your answers and to find the answers to the remaining questions.

1. How long has David Isay been a regular customer at Hunan Chef?

2. On what nights does he usually eat at the restaurant? _____

3. What did he do when he heard that the restaurant was closing?

4. What important news did David's best friend from college share with him at Hunan Chef?

5. What solution did the owner offer when David became worried about where he was going to eat?

6. According to David, how good was the food at Hunan Chef?

7. Was David ever disappointed with the food at Hunan Chef? Explain.

8. How much did David pay for his last meal at Hunan Chef? Explain.

LANGUAGE FOCUS A: PHRASAL VERBS (1)

A phrasal verb is a special type of verb created by combining a verb and a preposition. Together they create a phrasal verb (also known as a “multiword verb”) with a special meaning. The meaning of a phrasal verb might not be clear even if you know what each word means on its own. Note the following sentence.

David Isay used to *hang out* at Hunan Chef.

To “hang out” somewhere means to spend a lot of time there on a casual basis. However, you might not guess this meaning even if you knew the meaning of both “hang” and “out.”

A. With a partner, read each of the following sentences. Note the italicized phrasal verb. Then find the definition that matches it. Write the letter next to the definition in the space provided. The first one has been done for you.

- _____ **d** 1. David tried to *keep* his visits *down* to one a week.
- _____ 2. Whenever he needed a comforting meal, he would *call up* Hunan Chef for a delivery.
- _____ 3. When the owner *picked up*, David Isay was confused.
- _____ 4. When David heard the news, he *threw on* a coat.
- _____ 5. Then he *headed over* to Hunan Chef.
- _____ 6. The rent hike *put* Hunan Chef *out of business*.
- _____ 7. Only once in nine years did Hunan Chef *let* David *down*.
- _____ 8. He was disappointed when an order of sliced chicken *showed up* at his apartment.

- a. disappoint
- b. answered the phone
- c. make a telephone call
- d. minimize
- e. went
- f. destroyed the business
- g. arrived
- h. put on rather quickly

B. Phrasal verbs can often replace more formal sounding verbs. For example, it sounds less formal for David Isay to say that he was *let down* by his delivery than to say that he was *disappointed*. (Because they are generally informal, phrasal verbs are used more often in speaking than in writing.)

Each of the following pairs of sentences has a formal version on the left and an informal version on the right. Complete each informal sentence with one of the prepositions in the box below to form a phrasal verb so that it means the same thing as the sentence on the left.

up / down
in / out
on / off

1. At what time did you awaken this morning?
When did you get _____ ?
2. I am very tired and will now retire to bed.
I'm beat so I think I'm going to turn _____ .
3. She phoned to say she's been delayed at the office.
She called to say she's been held _____ at work.
4. Please lower the volume of your radio.
Could you turn your radio _____ ?
5. I suspect that that story is an invention.
I think the story was probably made _____ .
6. What was the conclusion of the film?
How did the movie turn _____ ?
7. I hope they will move more quickly.
I hope they will hurry _____ .
8. Please wait a moment.
Can you hold _____ for just a minute?
9. You must register by the 3rd of September.
You need to sign _____ by September 3rd.
10. The meeting has been postponed until Tuesday.
The meeting is being put _____ until Tuesday.

LISTENING FOR ANALYSIS

Listen to the broadcast again for answers to the following questions. As you listen, follow along with the transcript and mark all the passages that help you answer the questions. Write your answers to the questions on the lines provided. You may also mark any places where the meaning of the story is unclear and ask your teacher for an explanation.

Look over the following questions before listening to the story for a final time.

1. How would you describe David Isay? (Consider his actions. They point to the kind of person he is.)

2. How would you describe David Ma, the owner of Hunan chef?

3. Why do you think Hunan Chef was so special to David Isay?

4. Is this a sad story or a happy one? Could it be both? Explain your reaction.

LANGUAGE FOCUS B: VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT (1)

When you encounter an unfamiliar word, you can use context clues—the words or sentences before and after it—to help you figure out its meaning. For example, in the following sentence you can use context clues to figure out the meaning of the italicized word.

I've eaten at Hunan Chef *religiously* since the first week of my freshman year at college, nearly nine years ago. Usually I'm only at the restaurant on Monday nights. I try to keep my visits down to one a week.

We can see from the second sentence that David Isay eats at Hunan Chef every week, usually on the same day. This lets us know that the word *religiously* means something like “regularly; on a fixed schedule or in a very reliable way.”

Find each of the following words or phrases in the tapescript (the line number is given). Use the context clues to help you figure out what each one means. Then find the definition for the word or phrase and write the appropriate letter in the space provided. The first one has been done for you.

- _____ g 1. reminisce (line 36)
- _____ 2. hike (line 38)
- _____ 3. identical (line 56)
- _____ 4. outstanding (line 58)
- _____ 5. consistent (line 58)
- _____ 6. tendency (line 60)
- _____ 7. committed . . . to memory (lines 71–72)
- _____ 8. keepsake memento (line 88)
- a. exactly alike
- b. better than the others
- c. increase or raise

- d. memorized
- e. a thing that helps you to remember the past
- f. a preference for doing something
- g. talk about times in the past
- h. reliable, always the same

After Listening

DISCUSSION ACTIVITIES

With your group, choose one of the following activities.

- A.** There's a saying in English, "There's no such thing as a free lunch." What does this saying mean? Do you agree with this idea? Explain your opinion, relating this saying to the broadcast.

- B.** Think about a friend of yours with a very different background from your own. This person could be someone from another country or someone who is different from you in another way. Tell your group about your friend. What was the basis of your friendship? Explain how the differences affected your relationship, either positively or negatively.

WRITING ACTIVITIES

Choose one of the following topics.

- A.** Think of a place that was once a "home away from home" for you the way that Hunan Chef was for David Isay. Write the story of something that happened to you there. It could be a sad story, such as the last time you visited the place, or it could be a fond memory. Try to use specific details in order to give the reader a clear sense of what the place was like and what it meant to you.

- B.** Write a review of a restaurant you ate at recently. Would you recommend this restaurant to others? Explain why or why not. In your review, be sure to include information about the quality of the food, the friendliness and efficiency of the staff, the atmosphere, and the prices.

PROJECT ACTIVITY: PLANNING YOUR OWN RESTAURANT

Imagine that you have decided to quit your job and open a restaurant. The other members of your group will be your partners. Together make a plan for your new business. You will need to consider the following questions:

1. Where will your restaurant be located?
2. What kind of food will it serve?
3. What will the prices be like? (You may want to design a menu.)
4. What will the atmosphere be like?
5. Most important, what will be special about your restaurant? Why will people who have eaten there once want to come back again?

When you are ready, present your plans for the restaurant to the class.