

Many people wonder how all-you-can-eat buffet can be profitable. It turns out these restaurants use a few tricks to stay in business. Because most people fill their plates with food from the first three trays they see, restaurants tend to place cheaper, more filling foods like pasta, rice, or potatoes at the front of the buffet line. What's more, platters of expensive items like steak or seafood are refilled less frequently than others to discourage extra helpings.

These restaurants also typically use smaller plates and bowls to limit customer portions. Meanwhile, cups and glasses are usually quite large, encouraging diners to fill up on drinks. Another restaurant practice is to set prices based on the average food cost per person, which is calculated by dividing the total food cost by the average number of customers per day. While some customers eat more than the average cost, most customers eat less, so the restaurant earns a profit. Ever since Herb McDonald put an American twist on a Swedish concept, all-you-can-eat restaurants have been a hit with hungry customers. Though these restaurants may seem like a surefire way to lose money, clever business practices have enabled them to turn a profit and feed countless people in the process.

David is a doctor who grew up in Los Angeles. He had worked in several foreign countries before he arrived in Taipei this year. He loves his job, but he often feels tired because of the long hours. For example, last week he worked 70 hours. When he went to bed on Friday night, he slept for 13 hours.

One of the best things about being a doctor is making sick children better. He also enjoys delivering babies and is proud that sometimes their mothers name them David.

Recently, the doctor applied for a job in Africa. However, there is a problem. His wife Sue, a nurse, doesn't want to go. She thinks it's too hot there and she doesn't want to leave her family and friends. David thinks she would enjoy helping ill people in Africa, just like she enjoys helping the sick in Taiwan.

The job in Africa is only for 18 months. David will find out next week if he has got it and will decide then what to do.

Dear John,

Look where I am! Tokyo Disneyland! Can you believe we met here five years ago?

I'm here with my friends Emily and Mike, and we are having a good time so far. We've been on lots of rides and seen the fireworks. We've also done a lot of shopping. But it would be more fun if you were here, too. Do you remember that we went on Space Mountain 4 times in two hours? And we ate so many cookies, we both felt sick.

Since then, we've only met a few times, but I think about you a lot. I'm pleased you are doing so well at work, and that you're getting married to Susie this summer. I've already booked my plane ticket!

Anyway, wish you were here! I'll say hello to Mickey Mouse for you.

Say hi to Todd for me, and think he, too, for arranging that first meeting five years ago. See you soon.

Your old friend,
Sarah

Harry Potter must be one of the most famous names in the world now. But perhaps that's not surprising considering that J.K. Rowling's books are full of magic, mystery, and great characters, allowing us to stretch our imaginations and mentally go to places we've not even dreamed about.

One of the reasons kids and adults like the books is that they are set in an English public school and are full of schoolboy's adventures. Whereas previously we had to picture all the excitement of Harry Potter's world in our own heads, now we can see it on the big screen in a film. However, although some would say that is a good thing, others disagree. Not a lot is left to the imagination if you watch a film; it is the director's idea of the book, not your own. However, having said that, the film is not bad. Kids will love it. And that's the main thing, isn't it?

Students in schools across Taiwan will be taking tests soon, to find out how much they have learned during the year.

Although some students do not worry about tests, for many others it is a stressful time. A lot of preparation work is needed and both parents and teachers are hoping for good results. It is best to get a good night's sleep the night before a test so you will be wide awake and able to think properly. In addition, it is important that you eat breakfast on the morning of a test, to give you energy and feed your brain so you can think well. Make sure you have plenty of pens and pencils; there is nothing worse than being in the middle of a test and realizing you don't have all the things you need. Finally, you should remember that even if your results aren't as good as you had hoped for, if you've really done your best, you have nothing to be ashamed of.

Tommy has always wanted to find out more about his family's history. He knows that his grandmother Sally, on his mother's side, came from a very rich family. But when Sally fell in love with a servant and ran away with him, her parents were angry. They never spoke to her again and did not leave her any money when they died. Tommy would love to know about Sally's childhood and about her family before she was born. One of Tommy's friends advised him to look on the Internet and he was surprised at the amount of information there. There are hundreds of sites explaining how to search for relatives from the past. Now Tommy has a new hobby, and he hopes to get his hands on some of the money, if Sally's descendants are still rich!