NEWS LESSON

When the Next Table Becomes a Photo Studio



BEFORE YOU READ

1 Warm up

Talk about these questions with a partner.

1. When does taking a photo start to spoil a meal?
2. Would a photo of a restaurant persuade you to try it?
3. Should you ask before including a stranger in a video?

2 Key words

These words are in the article. Write the letter of the meaning (A to H) in each box.

1	**organised**	☐	A	the feeling of a place
2	**jewellery**	☐	B	planned carefully, with many people or things
3	**atmosphere**	☐	C	rings, necklaces and other things you wear for decoration
4	**strict**	☐	D	the thing you want to do
5	**queuing**	☐	E	not allowing people to break rules
6	**ban**	☐	F	an official rule that says you cannot do something
7	**content**	☐	G	videos and pictures that people put online
8	**aim**	☐	H	standing in a line to wait

3 Read

Read the article and underline the key words from task 2. The paragraphs are numbered.

Hotels, restaurants and shops are starting to limit photography. Other customers came for lunch, not for somebody else's video.

1 Imagine booking a table at a beautiful restaurant. You sit down, look at the menu and get ready for a relaxing lunch. But at the next table, someone is changing clothes, moving chairs and taking photographs of every corner. They are not making a family album. They are creating content for social media. Some businesses have decided that enough is enough.

2 In October 2026, reports described hotels, restaurants and shops that were putting limits on photography. One famous hotel in Antibes, on the French coast, now requires permission for organised photoshoots. According to reports, some visitors had booked a meal and then turned up with bags of clothes and jewellery. They spent their time taking pictures instead of enjoying lunch. Other guests wanted a little privacy.

3 A smaller business in England has made a similar decision. The Hollies, a farm shop in Cheshire, became popular with social media visitors. It introduced restrictions on filming and taking photographs during busy daytime hours, from ten until four. The aim is to let staff get on with their work and to make shopping more pleasant for everyone.

4 Of course, social media is not always a problem. A lovely photograph can help a small restaurant attract new customers. Travellers often look up places online before making plans. A café that appears in a popular video may suddenly have people queuing outside. For a new business, that attention can be worth a lot of money.

5 But there is a difference between taking one quick picture of your cake and turning a dining room into a film studio. Flashing lights, long photoshoots and strangers appearing in videos can spoil the atmosphere. Staff may have to deal with unhappy customers, while other visitors feel uncomfortable. Nobody expects perfect silence in a restaurant, but most people want to eat in peace.

6 So where should businesses draw the line? A complete ban may seem too strict, especially for customers who simply want a memory of a special day. Clear rules could be a better answer: no large equipment, no filming strangers and no blocking the way.

Sources: The Guardian. Picture: AI illustration.

4 True, false or not given

Circle **T** (true), **F** (false) or **NG** (the article does not say).

1. The hotel in Antibes asks people to get permission for organised photoshoots. T F NG
2. The Hollies limits filming and photographs all day. T F NG
3. The hotel in Antibes has earned more money since it introduced its rule. T F NG
4. The writer thinks social media is always a problem. T F NG
5. The writer suggests clear rules instead of a complete ban. T F NG

5 Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed.

audience	equipment	memory	permission	privacy	reservation	restrictions

1. You need written _____ from the manager before you start filming.
2. Guests in a spa expect some _____ , so staff keep the doors closed.
3. A tripod and a ring light are large pieces of _____ that can block the way.
4. The shop introduced _____ on filming during busy hours.
5. A photo is a nice _____ of a special birthday.

6 Verb forms

Write the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. The hotel _____ a new rule last month. (INTRODUCE)
2. Last year, the farm shop _____ popular online. (BECOME)
3. Some guests _____ about the noise. (COMPLAIN)
4. A group at the next table _____ photographs right now. (TAKE)
5. Visitors _____ in a long line outside the café. (STAND)

7 Language focus: collocations

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed. Collocations are words that go together naturally. Learn the whole pair, for example pay attention.

book	carry	decision	lose	pay	set	take

1. Please _____ attention to the rules on the sign.
2. Many people like to _____ a photo of their dessert.
3. The hotel made a _____ to protect its guests.
4. They arrived early to _____ a table by the window.
5. The shop will _____ a limit on filming at busy times.

SPEAK

8 Talk about it

Discuss in pairs or small groups. Give reasons for your answers.

1. What filming rule would make a restaurant better for everyone?
2. Would you visit a place that banned all customer photos?
3. Can a place become less enjoyable because it is famous online?

9 Role-play: filming at the restaurant

Work in pairs. Read your card, then have the conversation. Swap roles and do it again.

Student A · the restaurant manager

A customer wants to film a video at one of your tables. Other guests are already eating. Ask what equipment they will use and how long it will take. You can say yes, no, or yes with rules.

Student B · the influencer

You want to film a short video of your lunch. It could bring the restaurant new customers. Explain why it's good for the business and promise to be quiet.

Useful phrases

Would it be all right if I filmed my meal?

I'm afraid other guests might feel uncomfortable.

It won't take long, and I'll keep the noise down.

I'd be happy to agree if you stay at your table.

That's not really fair on the other customers.

Could we agree on a time limit?

Afterwards, tell the class: did the manager say yes, and was it a fair decision?

ANSWER KEY

2 Key words

1 B · 2 C · 3 A · 4 E · 5 H · 6 F · 7 G · 8 D

4 True, false or not given

1 T · 2 F · 3 NG · 4 F · 5 T

5 Vocabulary

1 permission · 2 privacy · 3 equipment · 4 restrictions · 5 memory

6 Verb forms

1 introduced · 2 became · 3 complained · 4 is taking · 5 stood

7 Language focus

1 pay · 2 take · 3 decision · 4 book · 5 set

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