NEWS LESSON

When Restaurants Say No to Photoshoots



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	**backdrop**	☐	A	used only for one purpose
2	**clash**	☐	B	a strong disagreement between two groups or ideas
3	**rethink**	☐	C	annoyed because you cannot do what you want
4	**unwritten**	☐	D	not approved by an authority
5	**complication**	☐	E	think again about a plan or idea
6	**dedicated**	☐	F	accepted by everyone but never officially written down
7	**unofficial**	☐	G	the scene behind something, such as in a photo
8	**frustrated**	☐	H	a new problem that makes things harder

3 Read

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

A famous hotel on the French Riviera now requires permission for organised shoots. A Cheshire farm shop has restricted filming during its busiest hours.

1 Picture a lunch on the French Riviera. Then a group at the next table starts unpacking several outfits, rearranging furniture and taking photographs from every possible angle. For them, the hotel is a backdrop. For everyone else, it is somewhere to relax. That clash has persuaded some businesses to rethink their relationship with influencers.

2 In October 2026, the Guardian reported that hotels, restaurants and tourist destinations were introducing restrictions on photography. At the famous Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc in Antibes, organised photoshoots now require permission. Reports suggest some visitors had booked tables for lunch, only to spend their reservations changing clothes and producing social media content. Management wanted to protect the privacy of other guests and preserve the atmosphere people had paid to enjoy.

3 The problem is not limited to exclusive hotels. The Hollies, a farm shop in Cheshire, imposed restrictions on photographing and filming between 10am and 4pm. The business had become a popular social media destination after being featured by a celebrity. When visitors turn up primarily for a photograph, ordinary customers may struggle to get on with their shopping. Even somewhere as simple as a farm shop can become an unofficial film set.

4 There is an obvious complication: businesses often benefit enormously from social media publicity. A short video can put an unknown café on the map, especially if the food looks irresistible. Restaurants use attractive photographs in their own advertising, so telling paying customers to put their phones away may seem rather hypocritical. Influencers also point out that their work involves real planning, editing and promotion, not merely taking a few selfies.

5 Yet the atmosphere of a public place depends on unwritten rules. Taking a quick photograph of a dessert is very different from blocking a corridor for twenty minutes or including strangers in a video without their agreement. Customers may have paid for a peaceful meal, not an unexpected appearance on somebody else's channel.

6 Staff can end up caught in the middle, expected to satisfy content creators and frustrated guests simultaneously. For employees, the problem may begin with an innocent request for a better angle, then build up into an argument about blocked tables, privacy and whose enjoyment matters most. Small interruptions can change the character of a whole meal.

7 The sensible answer may lie between an unrestricted photoshoot and a blanket ban. Businesses could set clear limits, offer dedicated photography periods or ask creators to arrange filming in advance. Customers, meanwhile, could consider whether their perfect image comes at somebody else's expense. Social media can bring people together and help independent businesses thrive. But if everyone is performing for an audience, who is actually enjoying the place they came to visit?

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 Hollies' restrictions apply during only part of the day. T F NG
2. The Hollies became popular because its owners advertised on social media. T F NG
3. Most guests at Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc support the new rule. T F NG
4. Restaurants themselves use photographs to attract customers. T F NG
5. The writer believes the best solution is a complete ban on photography. T F NG

5 Vocabulary

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

generously **gradually** **hypocritical** **imposed** **preserve** **primarily** **publicity** **simultaneously**

1. Old buildings are expensive to _____ , but the town believes they are worth saving.
2. Good _____ in a magazine can bring a small business hundreds of new customers.
3. It seems _____ to ban phones in a restaurant that uses customers' photos in its adverts.
4. A waiter cannot serve three tables _____ , so someone always has to wait.
5. The council _____ a strict limit on noise after ten o'clock.
6. The festival is _____ aimed at families, though everyone is welcome.

6 Verb forms

Write the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. By the time the manager arrived, the guests _____ their clothes twice. (CHANGE)
2. Next year the café _____ a quiet hour for diners. (OFFER)
3. You _____ before you film strangers. (SHOULD / ASK)
4. The rule _____ by the hotel last spring. (INTRODUCE)
5. While the staff _____ a table, a group began filming. (CLEAR)

7 Language focus: collocations

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed. Many collocations combine a common verb with a noun. The verb is often not the one you would guess, so learn the pair together.

bear	carry	make	reach	show	strike	wonders

1. Customers may _____ a complaint if the noise is too loud.
2. Some visitors _____ little respect for other diners.
3. Influencers can _____ a huge audience in a single week.
4. A good review can do _____ for a small café's reputation.
5. Managers must _____ a balance between publicity and peace.

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

4 True, false or not given

1 T · 2 F · 3 NG · 4 T · 5 F

5 Vocabulary

1 preserve · 2 publicity · 3 hypocritical · 4 simultaneously · 5 imposed · 6 primarily

6 Verb forms

1 had changed · 2 will offer · 3 should ask · 4 was introduced · 5 were clearing

7 Language focus

1 make · 2 show · 3 reach · 4 wonders · 5 strike

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