

## Bangkok street-food chef says no to top cooking honour

12th January, 2018



A street-food seller in Bangkok wants to give back a top international chef's award. The street-food seller is known as the "crab omelet queen". Her name is Supinya Junsuta but she calls herself Jai Fai. Her street stall is in the middle of Bangkok and

it is called Raan Jai Fai. Her crab omelets are of such good quality that the international dining guide Michelin awarded her a Michelin Star. A Michelin Star is one of the highest awards any chef in the world can receive. It is usually only given to chefs in top hotels and restaurants. Michelin announced it would be adding Bangkok to its fine dining lists. Many people were surprised that a street-food seller in Bangkok received the Michelin Star.

Chefs are usually happy to get the Michelin Star, but Jai Fai, 72, has told reporters she is not so pleased that she got the award. She wants to return the star to Michelin. Ms Fai said the star has changed her life too much. She wants to go back to how her life was before. She said she does not like the fame that has come with the star. One reason is that too many people are surrounding her stall and she is getting stressed. Tourists come to take photos; passers-by stop to watch her; and even some officials from the tax department came to visit her. Fai said: "Many people come just to look and take pictures and not necessarily to eat." She said happy customers are more important to her than "a million stars".

Sources:

[independent.co.uk](http://independent.co.uk) / [nationalpost.com](http://nationalpost.com) / [thedailymeal.com](http://thedailymeal.com)

## Writing

How different is street food and restaurant food? Which do you prefer? Why?

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Bangkok / international / chef / award / crab / omelet / hotel / restaurant / star / food / happy / reporters / life / fame / stall / passers-by / department / pictures / million

## True / False

- The street-food chef sells a dish that uses crab. T / F
- The chef has a stall in the north of Bangkok. T / F
- The food guide Michelin gave her stall two stars. T / F
- The article said nobody was surprised the chef got the award. T / F
- Jai Fai is over 70 years old. T / F
- Jai Fai wants her life to be as it was before she got the award. T / F
- Jai Fai said no one takes photos of her stall. T / F
- Jai Fai prefers happy customers to honours or awards. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. <b>give back</b>  | a. celebrity       |
| 2. <b>middle</b>     | b. standard        |
| 3. <b>quality</b>    | c. pleased         |
| 4. <b>usually</b>    | d. shoppers        |
| 5. <b>surprised</b>  | e. centre / center |
| 6. <b>happy</b>      | f. worried         |
| 7. <b>fame</b>       | g. normally        |
| 8. <b>reason</b>     | h. return          |
| 9. <b>stressed</b>   | i. cause           |
| 10. <b>customers</b> | j. amazed          |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think of street food?
- How is street food different from restaurant food?
- What is the best street food in your country?
- What do you think of crab omelets?
- What do you know about the Michelin dining guide?
- What would it be like to be a chef?
- How good is it that a street-food seller got a chef's award?
- What do you think of fine dining?

# BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

1. give back a top international
  2. The street-food seller is known as the
  3. Her crab omelets are of such
  4. one of the highest
  5. fine
  6. she is not so
  7. She wants to go back to how
  8. too many people are surrounding
  9. tax
  10. happy customers are more important to her
- a. good quality
  - b. department
  - c. dining
  - d. "crab omelet queen"
  - e. her life was before
  - f. her stall
  - g. chef's award
  - h. than "a million stars"
  - i. awards
  - j. pleased

## Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of Thai food?
- c) Have you ever got an award?
- d) Do you think Jai Fai should return the award?
- e) What is your favourite food, and why?
- f) What advice do you have for Jai Fai?
- g) Are happy customers better than a million stars?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Jai Fai?

## Spelling

1. a top international chef's aawdr
2. of such good tualyqi
3. one of the hihtesg
4. top hotels and taastrusen
5. fine ingnid
6. eercdiev the Michelin Star
7. told eroertpsr she is not so pleased
8. She wants to eurntr the star
9. utirtsos come to take photos
10. lfaocsiif from the tax department
11. not selyneriacs
12. a oiminll stars

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. r	2. o	3. l	4. q	5. j
6. c	7. a	8. i	9. f	10. d

## Role Play

### Role A – Pizza

You think pizza is the best street food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their street foods. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): grilled corn, hot dogs or fried noodles.

### Role B – Grilled Corn

You think grilled corn is the best street food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their street foods. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): pizza, hot dogs or fried noodles.

### Role C – Hot Dog

You think hot dogs are the best street food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their street foods. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): grilled corn, pizza or fried noodles.

### Role D – Fried Noodles

You think fried noodles are the best street food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their street foods. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): grilled corn, hot dogs or pizza.

## Speaking – Street Food

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- fish and chips
- pizza
- fried chicken
- kebab
- shawarma
- hot dog
- fried noodles
- grilled corn

### Answers – True False

a T	b F	c F	d F	e T	f T	g F	h T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.