

Online dining latest craze in South Korea

29th January, 2014



There is a new craze in South Korea that is very popular. It is watching other people eat online. The Reuters news agency reports there are over

3,500 people who eat live in front of their webcam. Thousands of people watch the shows. One of the most famous online diners is 34-year-old Park Seo-yeon. She is known as The Diva and has thousands of followers who watch her eat every day. She broadcasts her meals in real time for about three hours a day. She said she first tried it as a hobby, but then she started to get a lot of money. People click a link on her website to say they like her. She gets about nine U.S. cents per click. She now makes over \$9,000 a month from her show and has quit her regular job.

Many people in Korea watch the online dining webcasts because they are lonely. More and more Koreans are living alone in big cities and have no one to eat with. Reuters said: "One-person households are set to increase from 25.3 per cent of the total population in 2012 to 32.7 per cent in 2030." This is the fastest rate of any rich country in the world. Ms Park says she feels like she is providing a benefit to society. She told Reuters: "It is comforting for people who eat alone. It feels great when people said, 'Thank you for a fun and delicious time'". She also said people write to thank her for helping them with their eating problems. She enjoys being part of a big online community and talking about food.

Source: Reuters.com

Writing

Watching other people eat online is good for lonely people. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

craze / popular / news agency / webcam / followers / meals / hobby / click / link / lonely / big cities / population / benefit / society / comforting / delicious / community

True / False

- The latest craze in S. Korea is eating at online restaurants. T / F
- Over 3,500 people in S. Korea broadcast themselves eating. T / F
- Thousands of people watch one woman eat three meals a day. T / F
- The woman said she will quit her job next year. T / F
- People watch webcasts of others eating because they are lonely. T / F
- Around a third of South Koreans will live alone in 2030. T / F
- The woman doesn't think what she is doing is so useful. T / F
- The woman has never received any messages from her followers. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. craze | a. alone |
| 2. followers | b. pace |
| 3. in real time | c. everyday |
| 4. makes | d. circle |
| 5. regular | e. earns |
| 6. lonely | f. fad |
| 7. increase | g. good |
| 8. rate | h. fans |
| 9. benefit | i. rise |
| 10. community | j. live |

Discussion – Student A

- What should people do when they eat if they are lonely?
- Is there a problem when there are so many one-person households?
- What do you do when you are lonely?
- Is it better to eat alone or with someone?
- What benefits is Ms Park providing to society?
- Does online dining show society is becoming less friendly?
- Would you like to be part of an online dining community?
- What questions would you like to ask Ms Park?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. people who eat live | a. who eat alone |
| 2. thousands of | b. real time |
| 3. She broadcasts her meals in | c. regular job |
| 4. She now makes over | d. her for helping them |
| 5. quit her | e. are set to increase |
| 6. have no one | f. in front of their webcam |
| 7. One-person households | g. a big online community |
| 8. It is comforting for people | h. \$9,000 a month |
| 9. people write to thank | i. to eat with |
| 10. She enjoys being part of | j. followers |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of the online dining craze?
- Would you like to watch people eating online?
- Why do you think people like watching others eat online?
- What would you like to watch people doing online?
- Why do people want others to watch them eating online?
- Would you let people watch you eat if you got money for it?
- What do you think of someone getting \$9,000 a month for eating?
- What would you like to watch someone eat?

Spelling

- very aprpulo
- news ncyega
- She is known as The Diva and has sdnaousht
- ellsofrwo who watch her eat every day
- She catsboasdr her meals in real time
- quit her aeqrri job
- because they are eylonl
- 25.3 per cent of the total tiaoaponulp
- she is providing a benefit to yceosti
- It is omgrifcnto for people who eat alone
- Thank you for a fun and iulecdsio time
- part of a big online ucnitmoym

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. h	3. j	4. e	5. c
6. a	7. i	8. b	9. g	10. d

Role Play

Role A – How to use technology

You think how-to-use-technology webcasts are best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their webcasts. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): pronunciation-practice webcasts, panda webcasts or webcasts that show religious services.

Role B – Pronunciation practice

You think pronunciation-practice webcasts are best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their webcasts. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): how-to-use-technology webcasts, panda webcasts or webcasts that show religious services.

Role C – Pandas

You think panda webcasts are best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their webcasts. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): pronunciation-practice webcasts, how-to-use-technology webcasts or webcasts that show religious services.

Role D – Religious services

You think webcasts that show religious services are best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their webcasts. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): pronunciation-practice webcasts, panda webcasts or how-to-use-technology webcasts.

Speaking - Webcasts

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

- someone eating
- speeches
- of a panda in a zoo
- religious services
- how to use technology
- pronunciation practice
- the weather in a city
- religious services

Answers – True False

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