

China launches 'Clean Plate' food waste campaign

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China is taking action to cut down on food waste. The government has started a new campaign to encourage people to think about the amount of food they waste. It is called the "Clean Plate Campaign". President

Xi Jinping wants people to reduce the amount of food wasted. He called the waste "shocking and distressing". There are many reports in China that a food crisis is coming. Food production has decreased because of the coronavirus and because of floods in southern China. Experts say this will not lead to a crisis, but the government wants people to pay more attention to how much food they leave on their plate. President Xi said China had to "maintain a sense of crisis about food security".

Many restaurants are taking the campaign very seriously. A restaurant in central China went a little too far as it started weighing customers. It had to apologise to diners who were offended at being weighed. It said: "We originally wanted customers to stop food waste and order food in a healthy way." A restaurant in the capital Beijing told the Global Times newspaper: "We remind our guests when they order too much food." Restaurants in Wuhan have started the N-1 system. This is where groups of diners must order one fewer dish than the number of people in the group. Earlier this year, the United Nations warned that the world could see its worst food crisis in 50 years.

Sources: bbc.com / globaltimes.cn / scmp.com

Writing

Wasting food should be made a crime. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

action / food / waste / campaign / shocking / crisis / production / floods / experts / restaurant / customer / apologise / healthy / newspaper / dish / United Nations

True / False

- a) The article said China is trying to cut in on food waste. T / F
- b) China's government wants people to think about food waste. T / F
- c) China's president said food waste was shocking. T / F
- d) China wants people to pay if they leave food on their plate. T / F
- e) No restaurant in China is taking food waste seriously. T / F
- f) A restaurant in central China started weighing its customers. T / F
- g) Some restaurants are asking groups of diners to order fewer dishes. T / F
- h) The UN said this year sees the worst global food crisis in 50 years. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. cut down on | a. patrons |
| 2. campaign | b. worrying |
| 3. wasted | c. say sorry |
| 4. distressing | d. emergency |
| 5. maintain | e. drive |
| 6. apologise | f. food |
| 7. originally | g. squandered |
| 8. guests | h. initially |
| 9. dish | i. keep |
| 10. crisis | j. reduce |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Why do people waste food?
- c) How would you feel if a restaurant weighed you?
- d) Should restaurants advise diners about food waste?
- e) What do you think of the N-1 system of ordering less?
- f) How difficult would it be to eat less?
- g) What food could you not eat less of?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Xi Jinping?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. taking action to cut | a. one fewer dish |
| 2. think about the amount | b. in southern China |
| 3. food production has | c. very seriously |
| 4. because of floods | d. decreased |
| 5. pay more | e. customers |
| 6. restaurants are taking the campaign | f. down on food waste |
| 7. it started weighing | g. being weighed |
| 8. diners who were offended at | h. crisis in 50 years |
| 9. groups of diners must order | i. of food they waste |
| 10. the world could see its worst food | j. attention to how much |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of food waste?
- How much food do you waste?
- What can we do to reduce food waste?
- Do you think China's campaign will work?
- How "shocking and distressing" is food waste?
- How serious is food security?
- Should we all start growing our own food?
- What would you do in a food shortage?

Spelling

- uneceoagr people to think
- shocking and sirsnitegsd
- because of dloosf in southern China
- pay more nttetaion
- maintain a sense of cisisr
- food rtycieus
- taking the campaign very lisryoseu
- it started wiinhegg customers
- diners who were ffdeeodn
- We lilngaroiy wanted customers to stop
- in the lapacit Beijing
- diners must order one reewf

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Chinese

You think Chinese restaurants are best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their restaurants. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Italian, Indian or Lebanese.

Role B – Italian

You think Italian restaurants are best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their restaurants. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Chinese, Indian or Lebanese.

Role C – Indian

You think Indian restaurants are best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their restaurants. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Italian, Chinese or Lebanese.

Role D – Lebanese

You think Lebanese restaurants are best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their restaurants. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Italian, Indian or Chinese.

Speaking – Restaurants

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

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| • Chinese | • Fast food |
| • Italian | • French |
| • Mexican | • Thai |
| • Indian | • Japanese |

Answers – True False

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