

Answers

Sample answers:

- a) Yes, I do. I eat out at restaurants with my family or friends. We usually eat out on special occasions such as birthdays. Sometimes I go to restaurants with my friends on the weekends or during the school holidays. We usually go to Chinese or Italian restaurants. Sometimes we go to a fast-food restaurant for a pizza or a hamburger.
- b) I think there are many different kinds of restaurants in Australia because people have migrated here from countries all over the world. They brought their own ways of eating with them and subsequently many opened restaurants offering food from diverse origins. As well, many Australians have travelled overseas and are interested in the food of different countries.
- c) I think people in Australia eat out in restaurants in order to spend time with their family or friends, celebrate special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries, do business or go on dates.
- d) In *Padang*-style restaurants, diners sit at rectangular tables. There is usually a window at the front of the restaurant where a wide variety of neatly-stacked plates of food is on display for passers-by. Instead of a menu, the waiter takes a selection of dishes from the display window and places them on the table. Diners then help themselves to food as they please and place it on their own plates. They only pay for what they eat.

In *warung lesehan*, diners remove their footwear and sit on woven mats at low wooden tables rather than on chairs. In *warung lesehan*, it is common to eat with the fingers rather than with utensils.

In *restoran Cina*, diners usually sit at round tables. There is often a large rotating platter in the middle of the table on which all the food is placed. Diners then share the meal together. They can eat with a spoon and fork or with chopsticks. People don't eat with their fingers in Chinese restaurants.

I also found out that in some restaurants in Indonesia, customers place their orders by writing their choices on the waiter's note pad and then they hand the note pad back.

- e) I think there are different kinds of restaurants in Indonesia because Indonesia is made up of people from many different cultural and geographical backgrounds such as Javanese, Balinese, Padang and Chinese. Therefore, there are restaurants that offer food from the different regions. There are also differences in the styles of restaurants ranging from simple road-side eating places such as *warung lesehan* to larger, more sophisticated ones with more up-market menus.
- f) I think rice is the main component of Indonesian meals because it is a cheap and easily-prepared food which has been grown there for many centuries. Other food, such as meat or fish, is much more expensive and so is eaten in smaller quantities. Rice is a very versatile food because it is easy to transport, can be stored for long periods and can be cooked in a variety of ways. It is quite filling and helps make a small meal more substantial without adding too much to the cost.

- g) I think Indonesians do not use the left hand for eating because for people of all religious and cultural backgrounds in Indonesia, the left hand is regarded as 'unclean'. Also, the left hand is not used for giving and receiving. So I think that, generally speaking, Indonesians avoid using their left hand in situations which involve the display of polite manners such as eating in public.