
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute English

Foodie



This is not a word-for-word transcript

Neil

Hello and welcome to 6 Minute English. I'm Neil.

Rob

And I'm Rob.

Neil

Now Rob, you look like you enjoy a good meal.

Rob

Ha. Well, I do like eating out and I like to think I know a good meal when I have one.

Neil

Well that should give you an advantage with today's quiz. In 2016, which is the last year we have statistics for, how many restaurants and mobile food services were there in the UK? was it:

- a) about 75,000,
- b) about 83,000, or
- c) about 93,000?

Rob

Well, I know there are a lot, so I'm going to say 93,000 – but that is just a guess.

Neil

I'll reveal the answer a little later in the programme. Today we're talking about being a **foodie**. Rob, what is a **foodie**?

Rob

Well I would describe a **foodie** as someone who has a strong interest in food. They like preparing it as well as eating it – they like using good ingredients and they're probably not fans of fast food.

Neil

Angela Hartnett is one of Britain's top chefs. In the BBC podcast *The Bottom Line* she talked about this topic. In this first clip how does she describe people who say they are foodies?

Angela Hartnett

I think people who say they are foodies buy the books, watch TV and will cook a little bit.

Rob

She is saying that people who say they are foodies may not actually know that much about food. They buy books and watch cookery programmes on TV and will cook a little bit.

Neil

A little bit is a common phrase that means 'a small amount' and if you do something a little bit it means you don't do it a lot. You could just say 'a little', but adding 'bit' to the phrase makes it very natural.

Rob

Well, we heard a little bit of Angela Hartnett there. Let's hear more now. What's her description of a foodie?

Angela Hartnett

My idea of a foodie is the very European idea that people go and shop every day, they understand one end of a pig from another. And maybe that's a bit romantic but I look at my mother, I look at my grandmother and our background, you know. They made food, they knew about what was expensive, they knew about quality and stuff like that.

Neil

Rob, do you know one end of a pig from another?

Rob

I hope so, but the point Angela Hartnett is making is that a true foodie has a good understanding, for example, of the different parts of an animal that are used in cooking and what they are used for. She says that idea might be a bit romantic.

Neil

We normally think of the word romantic when we are talking about love and relationships, but that's not what it means here, is it?

Rob

No. Romantic can also describe a pleasant ideal - an imaginary perfect way of life that forgets about the difficult things of everyday life.

Neil

Less hear some more from chef Angela Hartnett now. What is she worried about?

Angela Hartnett

I think we think we're foodies but I think food is expensive in this country. I don't think it's affordable for lots of people and I think we are in danger of not knowing, you know, how to cook any more, how to make a meal for a family of four for five pounds.

Neil

So Rob, what is Angela Hartnett worried about?

Rob

She commented that food was very expensive here in Britain. Many people don't have enough money to buy it, as she said it's not **affordable**. She thinks we might be in **danger of** not being able to feed out families cheaply.

Neil

Can you say a bit more about the phrase in **danger of**?

Rob

Sure, the phrase **to be in danger of** is followed by a gerund and it means that there is the possibility of something bad happening. It's not happened yet, but it could happen.

Neil

Thanks Rob. Right, well we're in **danger of** running out of time so let's get to the answer to the question I asked at the start of the programme. I asked how many restaurants or mobile food services there were in the UK in 2016.

Rob

And I said – it was a guess – 93,000. But was I right?

Neil

I'm afraid you're 10,000 out! The answer is approximately 83,000.

Rob

Right, well I've still got a few more to get to before I can tick them all off my list!

Neil

Me too! Well, before we go, let's recap the words and phrases we talked about today. The first was **foodie**.

Rob

Yes, **foodie** is a modern word to describe someone who is very interested in all aspects of food, from buying, preparing and cooking to eating.

Neil

And someone who may or may not know which end of a pig is which!

Rob

I think you're being a **little bit** silly there, aren't you?

Neil

Well a **little bit** was our next phrase, wasn't it?

Rob

Yes, a **little bit**: a very simple but a very natural conversational phrase that means a small amount.

Neil

The next word was the adjective **romantic**. Not used in the context of love here though was it?

Rob

No, it wasn't. A **romantic** idea here is one that is not realistic but is an imagined perfect situation. For example, we have a very **romantic** view of our childhoods when every Christmas was a white Christmas and every summer holiday was baking hot and spent on the beach. Of course, it wasn't like that at all. In reality both Christmas and summer were cold and rainy.

Neil

Then we had the adjective **affordable**, for something we have enough money to buy. Finally the phrase **to be in danger of**.

Rob

Yes, for the possibility of something bad happening.

Neil

Well, that's it for this programme. For more, you can find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and our YouTube pages, and of course our website bbclearningenglish.com where you can find all kinds of videos and audio programmes and activities to help you improve your English. Thanks for joining us and bye!

Rob

Bye-bye!

Neil

Well I have to say, I'm a **little bit** hungry and if I don't get some food soon I'm **in danger of** getting very grumpy.

Rob

You're always grumpy, Neil. But there is a very **affordable** café around the corner, let's head over there now, shall we?