

## The first restaurant transcript

Hi everybody, how are you all? Today we are going to discover the story behind a restaurant, mmm I'm hungry. Restaurant, restaurant, funny word isn't it? In French the word 'restaurer' means something like to get someone's health back, literally have your health restored.

In 1760, Paris, which was 250 years ago, one or two traders had a really good idea to serve soup to people who were unwell so that they would feel better, the soup was made of meat and vegetables which was meant to give people strength.

In the inns of that time, food used to be served on big long tables but from 1760 they started to serve on separate tables, all day, just like in the fast food restaurants of today. However, customers could only get a single dish of soup at a fixed price, that is how restaurants started, places where people would go to get their health back.

The word 'restaurant' is one of the French words most often used in the world and in many different languages like English, Spanish and also Norwegian, Russian, Romanian and Urdu.

The first restaurant on the planet to be called 'restaurant' was opened in Paris in 1765 by a smart entrepreneur who was the owner of a café. This person was called Monsieur Boulanger, he came up with the name 'restaurant' before the word 'restaurant' simply meant soup which restores your strength.

Monsieur Boulanger was the first to offer food like that during the day, each customer had his own table, cutlery and even his very own waiter. What is more, they could choose what they wanted to eat from a menu, it was never possible before to choose between different dishes. Monsieur Boulanger offered cheap menus to his customers, aristocrats and intellectuals at the time used to love going to his restaurant and he ended up making lots of money.

And so the trend began, twenty years later in 1782 Mr Antoine Beauvilliers copied Monsieur Boulanger's idea and opened a luxurious restaurant in Paris. This restaurant was called 'La Grande Taverne de Londres'. He attracted his customers by saying the food was going to be just like in Versailles, this is how the very first 'restaurant gastronomique' was created.

During the French Revolution, in 1789, a lot of noble people and aristocrats ended up losing their heads, decapitated by Madame Guillotine, chefs who worked for these newly rich people consequently lost their jobs, they became unemployed so they decided to open new restaurants, a lot of new restaurants. In 1789 there were one hundred restaurants in Paris, in 1820, thirty years later, there were 3000! And today there are over 40,000 restaurants dans la belle capitale.