

## Chapter 14 A Reporter Comes



Many businesses have ups and downs. But business at Le Petit Café and Lucky Donuts is only up. The neighborhood and the whole town love the coffee drinks, French pastries, and donuts. Sometimes the line of people goes out the door. Mrs. Ramos, however, can always go to the front of the line. She also has a permanent Reserved sign on her table in the dining room.

One day, a reporter from *City Magazine* visits the shop. She interviews Heng and Nary for an article. They tell her about their early lives and the horrible war in Cambodia. They tell her about their arrival in the U.S. as refugees and their hard work in the donut business. With pride, they also introduce Soriya. "Our daughter has an MBA," says Heng proudly.

"An MBA!" says the reporter. "So, what did you teach your parents about business?"

"Oh," answers Soriya, her face turning a little red. "I didn't teach my parents about business. They learned about it the real way—by owning one. Truthfully, I almost put my parents out of business with my ideas."



"Some of our daughter's ideas were great," says Nary with a smile. "We learned from her too."

"Really, Mom?" asks Soriya. "What did you learn from me?" Nary looks at her daughter with affection. Then she laughs out loud.

"I learned . . ." says Nary, "not to go out of town."

### Answer the questions.

1. How is business at Le Petit Café and Lucky Donuts?
2. What do the neighborhood and the whole town love?
3. Where does the line of people sometimes go?
4. Where can Mrs. Ramos always go?
5. What is on her table in the dining room?
6. Who visits the shop one day? Who does she interview?
7. What do they tell the reporter about?
8. Who do they also introduce to the reporter? What does Heng say about Soriya?
9. What does Soriya say that she taught her parents about business?
10. What does Nary say with a smile?

## Complete the sentences.

arrival  
pride

article  
Reserved sign

line  
ups and downs

neighborhood  
war

1. Many businesses have \_\_\_\_\_. But business at Le Petit Café and Lucky Donuts is only up.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ and the whole town love the coffee drinks, French pastries, and donuts.
3. Mrs. Ramos, however, can always go to the front of the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. She also has a permanent \_\_\_\_\_ on her table in the dining room.
5. A reporter interviews Heng and Nary for an \_\_\_\_\_.
6. They tell her about their early lives and the horrible \_\_\_\_\_ in Cambodia.
7. They tell her about their \_\_\_\_\_ in the U.S. as refugees and their hard work in the donut business.
8. With \_\_\_\_\_, they also introduce Soriya. "Our daughter has an MBA," says Heng proudly.

## Matching: Definitions

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| _____ 1. interview | a. to change or become                 |
| _____ 2. turn      | b. to help someone learn               |
| _____ 3. teach     | c. to question someone for information |
| _____ 4. own       | d. to present one person to another    |
| _____ 5. learn     | e. to legally have something           |
| _____ 6. introduce | f. to gain knowledge                   |

# Talking to the Reporter

Practice the dialog with partners.



- A. It's nice to meet you, Soriya!
- B. Our daughter has an MBA.
- A. An MBA! So, what did you teach your parents about business?
- C. Oh, I didn't teach my parents much. They learned about business by owning one. In fact, my ideas almost put my parents *out* of business.
- D. Some of Soriya's ideas were great. We learned from her too.
- C. Really, Mom? What did you learn from me?
- D. I learned . . . *not* to go out of town.

## Checklist

You are interviewing Heng and Nary for an article in *City Magazine*. Check (✓) the things that are interesting to discuss. Write other ideas on the lines below.

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> the shop renovation  | <input type="checkbox"/> the coffee prices   | <input type="checkbox"/> the Reserved sign         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the war in Cambodia  | <input type="checkbox"/> the photos of Paris | <input type="checkbox"/> the new lighting fixtures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the plumbing project | <input type="checkbox"/> the ups and downs   | <input type="checkbox"/> the number of customers   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the business profits | <input type="checkbox"/> the cost of an MBA  | <input type="checkbox"/> the French pastry types   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the barista's salary | <input type="checkbox"/> the money they lost | <input type="checkbox"/> the refugee experience    |

\_\_\_\_\_

## Listening

Listen. Check (✓) the correct sentence.

1.  a. There are many customers.  
 b. There is only Mrs. Ramos.
2.  a. Mrs. Ramos waits for a long time.  
 b. Mrs. Ramos doesn't have to wait.
3.  a. She is an immigration attorney.  
 b. She is a reporter.
4.  a. Their lives were very difficult.  
 b. Their lives were comfortable.
5.  a. She has an excellent education.  
 b. She manages large renovations.
6.  a. Soriya feels very hot.  
 b. Soriya feels embarrassed.
7.  a. She almost ruined the business.  
 b. She improved everything a lot.
8.  a. They learned from her too.  
 b. They didn't learn anything.

## Pronunciation and Writing

Say the words from the story. Write the number of syllables in each word. Underline the stressed syllable.

- |                       |                     |                    |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. permanent _____    | 6. reporter _____   | 11. article _____  |
| 2. affection _____    | 7. proudly _____    | 12. reserved _____ |
| 3. introduce _____    | 8. businesses _____ | 13. horrible _____ |
| 4. neighborhood _____ | 9. turning _____    | 14. however _____  |
| 5. interviews _____   | 10. dining _____    | 15. ideas _____    |

## What about you?

Circle **Yes** or **No**. Then write questions and ask your partner.

**Yes** **No** 1. I know a business where the line of people goes out the door.

Do you know a business where the line of people goes out the door?

**Yes** **No** 2. I sometimes see Reserved signs in restaurants and other places.

**Yes** **No** 3. I know about wars affecting people in many countries.

**Yes** **No** 4. I know some business owners who are refugees.

**Yes** **No** 5. I sometimes introduce people to each other.

## Topics for Discussion or Writing

1. What causes ups and downs in business? What are good things for business owners to do during good and bad times?
2. For what reasons do people become refugees? From which countries do refugees come to your native country?
3. In your opinion, what is the best way to learn about business?