1. Click printer icon (top right or center bottom).
2. Change "destination"/printer to **"Save as PDF."**
3. Click "Save."

English Self-Directed Learning Activities

Language Learning Center 77-1005, *Passport Rewards*   EA17. Restaurant Reviews: Developing an Opinion

EA17. Restaurant Reviews: Developing an Opinion

Student Name: _____   Student ID Number: _____

Instructor: _____   Level: _____ Date: _____

For media links in this activity, visit the LLC ESL Tutoring website for Upper Level SDLAs. Find your SDLA number to see all the resources to finish your SDLA.

Section 1: Agree or Disagree

Have you ever wanted to eat out at a restaurant, but you couldn't decide where to go? This happens to most people when they want to go out to eat, especially if you are trying to decide with a group. The next time you have this problem, you can go to www.yelp.com. Yelp is a website that gives you other people's opinions about different restaurants, bars, coffeehouses, home services, and the list goes on. When people write their opinion about something, it is often called a "Review." Read the review below from Yelp about the Applebee's restaurant on North Grand Avenue in Walnut, California.

"We always eat good in the neighborhood"

◉◉◉◉◯ Reviewed May 17, 2014

This Applebees is right down the street from our home and we have been going there since it was built. The young staff is usually nice and the food is always good. The prices are very reasonable and they constantly update the menu. They used to have karaoke but stopped doing it a while back. Be aware that on Friday and Saturday nights it can get packed and the wait could be 30 to 40 minutes. My only complaint is that when it is packed and there is some big sporting event on all the flat screens, everyone in the place stops eating and watches! Consequently, those who are waiting have to wait even longer! Sports fan or not! Aside from that, it is a good restaurant that usually has no waiting with prompt seating. I still love their bone-in hot wings the best! Come check it out, it's good.

Visited March 2014

◉◉◉◉◯ Value
◉◉◉◉◯ Atmosphere
◉◉◉◉◯ Service
◉◉◉◉◉ Food

After reading this restaurant review, would you eat at this restaurant? Why or why not?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

langlab@mtsac.edu

Section 2: Finding Reviews

Part A: Below are step-by-step instructions on how to search for places on Yelp. Read through the steps before completing Part B.

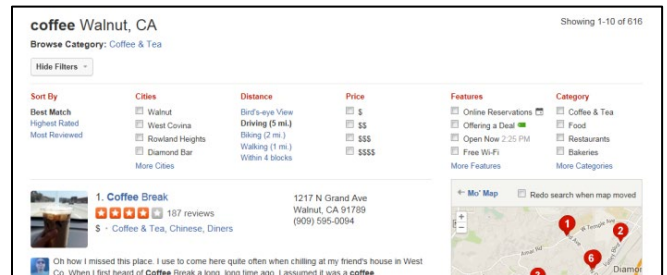**Find**   **Near**   **Magnifying Glass (Search)**

How to Search on Yelp

1. **Go to www.yelp.com**

2. In the *Find* box at the top of the webpage, type *coffee* in it.

3. In the *Near* box next to the *Find* box, type *Walnut, CA* in it. The *Near* box may already have *Walnut, CA* typed in it. Change it to *Walnut, CA* if it does not.

4. Once you have the *Find* and *Near* boxes filled, click on the *magnifying glass* next to the *Near* box. This will start your search.

Understanding your Search Results

1. After you click the *magnifying glass*, your search results will appear.

   a. **OPTIONAL:** You can filter your results based on cities, distance, price, features, and category by clicking on any of the boxes under each one. This will narrow your search, so you can get more specific results.

2. Each search result will display the following:

   a. Name of the restaurant, bar, coffeehouse, home service, etc.

   b. Stars – five stars (the highest rating) to one star (the lowest rating)

   c. The total number of reviews

   d. Dollar sign(s) – four dollar signs (very expensive) to one dollar sign (inexpensive)

   e. The type of food or service provided

   f. The address

Note: People usually use the information provided with each search result to help them decide which reviews to read. For example, some people will only read about restaurants that have at least 4 stars while others will only read about restaurants that are close by in distance.
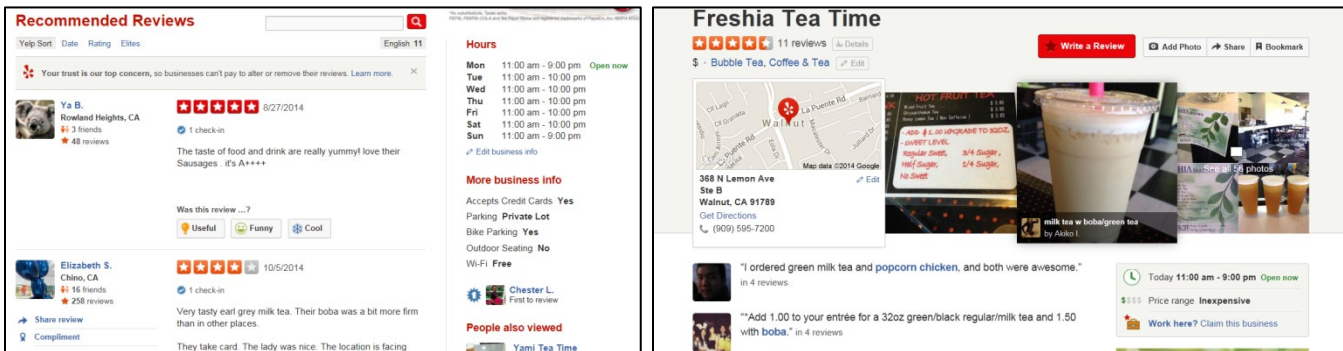
Part B: You will now search for a new place to get coffee in Walnut, CA. Use the steps above to search for a place that serves coffee. After your search results appear, choose one coffeehouse to complete the table below.

Your Coffeehouse

Name of Coffeehouse	Number of Stars	Number of Reviews	Number of Dollar Signs	Type of Food	The Address

Section 3: Reading Reviews

After you have looked at your search results and picked a place, you'll see a page that includes more information about it including reviews from Yelpers (people who write Yelp reviews). You can browse the reviews and read those that interest you.

Now it's your turn to read some Yelp reviews!

1. Decide which category you want to search: restaurants, shopping, home services, etc.
2. Find **ONE** place that looks interesting to you using the search results you learned about in section 2.
3. Read **THREE** reviews about your selected place. Complete the table below using the information from the three reviews. Use only the information in the reviews. Do **NOT** include your own opinions.

Note: Reviews can be very helpful to read when trying to make a decision. In order to make a good decision about something, you can't believe EVERYTHING you read, and you want to read many reviews before you decide to go to the place.

Yelp Research

Name of Place:	Likes What does the reviewer like about this place?	Dislikes What does the reviewer dislike about this place?	Overall Opinion Does the reviewer recommend this place to others?
Review 1			
Review 2			
Review 3			

After reading the three reviews, what is **YOUR** overall opinion of this place? Will you go there in the future? Explain.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Section 4: Student Self-Assessment				

Complete this table BEFORE meeting with a tutor.

Communication Skill	I can't do this YET.	I can do this WITH help.	I can do this WITHOUT help.	I can TEACH this to a classmate.
I can perform a Yelp search.				
I can use Yelp to search for specific information about a place.				
I can read and summarize reviews from Yelp.				
I can use the results of a Yelp search to develop an opinion about a place.				
I can discuss my opinion about a search result from Yelp.				

Here are some words/phrases I need to practice.

Good Job!

Now make an appointment

with a tutor on the LLC ESL Tutoring Website

(www.mtsac.edu/llc/passportrewards/llctutoring).

Section 5: Practice with a Tutor!

Meet with a tutor. Share this activity with the tutor. You will talk about the reviews that you read in Section 3. Be prepared to discuss your overall opinion about the place. You may also ask the tutor any questions that you might have.

Grading Rubric

Possible Points	Need Practice (0-1 Point)	Good Job (2-3 Points)	Excellent Work (4-5 Points)
Content	Not enough information provided in responses and often does not use correct vocabulary.	Provides most important information in responses and some of the time uses correct vocabulary.	Provides all necessary information in responses and most of the time uses correct vocabulary.
Skill: Speaking	More than 6 mistakes saying words; needs guessing more than 3 times.	Not more than 5 mistakes saying words; needs guessing on 1-2 words or sentences.	Not more than 2 mistakes saying words; needs no guess about meaning.
Oral Fluency	Speaks mostly in phrases, individual words; many pauses.	Sometimes speaks in complete sentences; several pauses.	Speaks in complete sentences; a couple pauses okay.

*Students must receive at least 10 points to move on   **Possible Points: _____ / 15**

Tutor Comments:

☐ **Congratulations! Keep going.**
You have successfully completed this SDLA and are ready to continue to the next.

☐ **Work on this more.**
You have not yet mastered this SDLA. It is recommended that you complete it again.

Tutor Signature: _____   Date: _____