

CONNECTION

Read the text **“Eating well, how can it be? Americans gain weight... while the French stay thin”** mindfully page 68, from Topnotch book 2 file.

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READING ▶ 3:31



How Can It Be?

Americans gain weight... while the French stay thin

Have you ever wondered why Americans struggle with watching their weight, while the French, who consume all that rich food—the bread, the cheese, the wine, and the heavy sauces—continue to stay thin? Now a report from Cornell University suggests a possible answer. A study of almost 300 participants from France and the U.S. provides clues about how lifestyle and decisions about eating may affect weight. Researchers concluded that the French tend to stop eating when they feel full. However, Americans tend to stop when their plate is completely empty, or they have reached the end of their favorite TV show.

According to Dr. Joseph Mercola, who writes extensively about health issues, the French see eating as an important part of their lifestyle. They enjoy food and, therefore, spend a fairly long time at the table. In contrast, Americans see eating as something to do quickly as they squeeze meals between the other activities of the day. Mercola believes Americans have lost the ability to sense when they are actually full. So they keep eating long after the French would have stopped. In addition, he argues that, by tradition, the French tend to shop daily, walking to small shops and farmers' markets where they have a choice of fresh fruits, vegetables, and eggs as well as high-quality meats and cheeses for each meal. In contrast, Americans tend to drive their cars to huge supermarkets to buy canned and frozen foods for the whole week.

Despite all these differences, new reports show that recent lifestyle changes may be affecting French eating habits. Today, the rate of obesity—or extreme overweight—among adults is only 6%. However, as American fast-food restaurants gain acceptance, and the young turn their backs on older traditions, the obesity rate among French children has reached 17%—and is growing.



When you read, highlight the most important words for you about the reading. Additionally, your new selected words (nouns, verbs) may summarize your understanding of the text. Include the ones that called your attention while reading.

Afterwards, use a **red color pen** to transcribe your new selected words inside the Dots chart according to the beginning of the letter. Look at the given example. Use the chart to discuss your ideas about what you understood from the reading, negotiate the meaning of words by context with your peer.

DOTS chart

A-B	C-D	E-F
G-H	I-J	K-L
M-N	O-P	Q-R
S-T	U-V-W weight (after reading the topic)	X-Y-Z

Source: (Socorro, Kavimandan , & Holmes , 2011 p.63)