

**Learner Level:** Intermediate-Advanced

**Theme:** Food

**Language focus:** Complaining, Making Excuses

**Skills:** Speaking

**Time:** 10 minutes +

**Materials:** None

**Grouping:** Brainstorm types of cuisine with the class. Explain the word "picky".

**Quick Reference:**

Students pretend to be a large family sitting at the dinner table. The picky eaters make excuses for not eating their food.

**Teacher Instructions:** 

1. As a class, brainstorm the different types of cuisine (Mexican, Italian, Japanese etc.). Brainstorm a few dishes from each (tacos, burgers, sushi etc.). Write these on the board.
2. Put the class in a circle at a large table (or with desks together) or divide into a few large groups. Designate one "mom" and one "dad" for each group (or grandparent, aunt, etc). Tell the other students they will be the "picky" children.
3. Tell the "mom" to choose a type of cuisine and announce that dinner is served.

**For example:** ✓

*Tonight we are having Mexican food! Sit down children. Let's eat.*

4. The children should groan and complain about the different types of food. (Remind them to use expression. Whiney voices!)

**For example:** ✓

*Tacos again! It's too spicy. I don't like beans. We always have Mexican. Why can't we have Chinese food?*

5. The mom should ask each student why he or she is not eating. The students will make individual excuses.

**For example:** ✓

**Mom:** *Rena, why aren't you eating your rice?*  
**Rena:** *I'm not hungry, Mom. I had a big lunch!*  
**Mom:** *Casey, you haven't touched anything on your plate!*  
**Casey:** *The beans are too cold. The chicken is too dry.*

6. After each student makes an excuse, the father will decide whether or not the child can be excused from the table. Continue until all of the children have been excused.

**For example:** ✓

**Dad:** *Fine, Rena. You may be excused. You can go to bed without any dinner.*  
**Dad:** *Casey that is not a good enough reason. Go and heat up your beans! The chicken tastes good to me.*

**Teacher 2 Teacher:** ☀

If the activity goes too quickly, have students change tables or try a new cuisine. Students can also take turns being the mom and dad.

**Related Topics from the ESL-Library.com:** 

**Flash Cards:** Cooking and Food Prep, Fast Food and Sandwiches

**Debate:** Trans Fats

**Everyday Dialogues:** Ordering Food

**Warm Ups:** Whatcha' Makin'?

**Grammar Stories:** Adjectives-Too Much Food