

# Ramen restaurant in Osaka criticized for price difference

## Vocabulary Match

controversy ●      discrimination ●      customisation ●      identical ●      policy ●      target ●

● exactly the same      ● unfairness      ● argument      ● rule      ● focus on      ● changes

## Article

A ramen restaurant in Osaka called Gadoya is causing controversy because its English menu prices are nearly double the Japanese ones. For example, basic ramen costs 864 yen on the Japanese menu but 1,500 yen on the English one.

The owner, Yusuke Arai, firmly denies 'discrimination'. He claims the English menu only offers 'special premium' bowls because explaining customisations to foreigners is too difficult. However, photos of the expensive English meals look identical to the cheaper Japanese versions shown online. After a loud argument with Chinese customers, Arai stated his restaurant has a 'Japanese people first' policy. This has led many to believe this pricing system unfairly targets foreign tourists.

## Quiz

1. What is the name of the restaurant in Osaka?
2. How much does basic ramen cost on the Japanese menu?
3. What does the owner claim about the English menu?
4. What policy did Arai mention after an argument?

## Conversation

- A: Why is the price so high on the English menu?  
B: The owner says it is a 'special premium' bowl.  
A: But the photo looks identical to the cheap one!  
B: He says explaining the menu in English is too difficult.  
A: It feels like he is just targeting tourists for extra money!  
B: I agree. Let's find a friendlier shop for lunch!

## Discussion

1. What is your favourite ramen shop, and what do you usually order there?
2. Do you prefer to speak to a waiter directly, or order from a tablet?
3. If you were a tourist in London and the prices were double for you, what would you do?
4. Imagine you are the owner of a small shop. How would you help tourists?