



THE FINE PRINT ON MEAL DEDUCTIONS

As a small business owner, you want more than just someone who can record your financial history—you deserve a **Trusted Business Advisory Partner** who helps you **build a future**. At **Business Advisory and Accounting Partners**, “Any CPA firm can record history. Our firm will help you build a future.” This rings especially true when it comes to navigating meal deductions—an area where many get stumped by the fine print.

Accountant vs. Advisor: A Strategic Shift

	Accountant	Trusted Advisor (That’s Us)
Approach	Records meals as expenses line by line	Structural planning: how meals support business growth
Focus	Tax compliance only	Strategic use of meal deductions to nurture relationships
Value delivery	Correct tax return	Enhanced profitability through future-focused planning
Client outcome	Avoid errors	Leverage deductions to fund business development

Understanding the Fine Print: What’s Deductible?

- **50% meals** with business purpose are still deductible—but only if properly documented.
- **100% deductible** when meals are included in an employee benefit or part of a company event.
- **Entertainment?** Not deductible. That’s where many hit IRS disallowance.

As your advisor, we don’t just file expenses—we **engineer tax-efficient strategies**.

Future Focused Business Planning: A Real World Strategy

Case Study:

Emily runs a boutique digital marketing agency.

She regularly meets potential high-value clients over lunches. Traditional accountants logged them as deductible meals, but with little strategy. We took a future-focused approach:

1. **Categorize:** Client development meals labeled separately from routine meals.
2. **Plan:** Monthly goal of 3–4 “high-impact” business meals tied to proposals.
3. **Scale:** Encouraged hosting quarterly team branding dinners that are 100% deductible.
4. **Track ROI:** Evaluated conversions directly linked to those meals.

Result: Emily increased high-margin client acquisition by 20% in six months and saved significant taxes—all while feeding growth.

Why Partner With Us?

- **Future-Focused Business Planning:** We help you use meal deductions proactively to fuel growth—not just comply.
- **Investing in Your Business Growth:** We structure your expense strategy around ROI, not just record keeping.
- **Trusted Guidance, Not Transactional Service:** We don’t just do your taxes; we guide your business trajectory.

Want this tailored to your business?

Book a call now to explore a custom meal deduction plan designed to boost growth:

Book Appointment

FAQ

1. What qualifies as a business meal?

Meals with a clear business purpose—such as a pitch, client meeting, or team strategy session—are generally 50% deductible if properly documented.

2. How do I document meal deductions properly?

Keep date, attendees, business purpose, and receipt. It's essential to differentiate routine meals from growth-focused ones.

3. Can entertainment costs still be deducted?

No. Since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, entertainment expenses are no longer deductible, separate from meals.

4. What’s the difference between an advisor and a CPA?

A CPA records and files; a **Trusted Business Advisory Partner** proactively uses financial insights to build strategy and drive business value.

5. How can meal deductions fuel growth?

By linking meals to client development and retention goals, you transform routine expenses into strategic investments with ROI.