



## Ane and Friends

This puzzle requires the answers from the previous four puzzles, SUPER, DINER, CARTON, and FED. These quite obviously go into the blanks in the group conversation.

The “special deal” at this restaurant is offering to double one piece of each order, so one letter in each of the four pre-event solutions can be doubled to make another word (a subtle hint of this pattern is that in the screenshot of the conversation, Anne’s nickname is ‘ane’, and ANE → ANNE by doubling the N).

Ordering them by the order that they appear in the chat, we get:

CARTON → CARTOON, SUPER → SUPPER, FED → FEED, and DINER → DINNER.

The doubled letter in each spells out the problem at hand, which is that the restaurant isn’t **OPEN**.

**Editor Notes:** Congratulations on making it through our pre-event! We hope you’ve enjoyed this mini-series and we assure you what’s waiting in the main event is even better. Get ready!!!!

Notes about this puzzle:

- This puzzle introduces the concept of a meta-puzzle, a puzzle that is missing information and thus requires the solutions from previous puzzles. In this metapuzzle, the solutions to previous puzzles are used to fill in the blanks in the conversation; some other ways that the “meta” concept is used include receiving tokens of information for the meta when correctly answering a “normal” puzzle, or “unlocking” more data as you solve normal puzzles.
  - In this pre-event series we released the metapuzzle last and included a hint that it requires the use of other puzzles, but this typically isn’t the case; the meta just blends in with the other puzzles. It’s important to recognize when puzzles may be metapuzzles so that you’re not stuck trying to solve something you don’t have the info for yet.
- The solution of this metapuzzle also illustrates another common technique for extracting letters: often when the puzzle entails some kind of manipulation (e.g.

duplication, removal, intersection, difference, etc), the letter(s) manipulated is/are the letter(s) used to make up the final answer.

(Fun fact: this puzzle's theme was inspired by a true story of An(n)e and friends making a late-night McDonald's run only to find that the place wasn't open.)