

Ordering Food in English: Restaurant and Café Phrases

Level: A2

Getting a table

A table for two, please.	Say it when you arrive and you want a table.	"A table for two, please." "This way."
Do you have a table by the window?	Ask it when you want a special table.	"Do you have a table by the window?" "Yes, of course."
Can I see the menu, please?	Ask it to read the list of food and drinks.	"Can I see the menu, please?" "Here you are."
Are you ready to order?	The waiter asks it to take your order.	"Are you ready to order?" "Yes, we are."
Not yet, thanks. Just a minute.	Say it when you need more time.	"Are you ready to order?" "Not yet, thanks. Just a minute."
What do you recommend?	Ask it when you don't know the best dish.	"What do you recommend?" "The fish is very good."
What's the soup of the day?	Ask it to know today's special soup.	"What's the soup of the day?" "Tomato soup."

Ordering and asking about the food

I'd like the chicken soup, please.	Say it to order a dish in a polite way.	"I'd like the chicken soup, please." "Of course."
Can I have a coffee, please?	Say it to order a drink or a small thing.	"Can I have a coffee, please?" "Black or with milk?"
I'll have the pasta.	Say it to tell your choice from the menu.	"And for you?" "I'll have the pasta."
What comes with it?	Ask it to know what is on the plate with the dish.	"What comes with it?" "Rice and a salad."
Does it have any nuts?	Ask it when you can't eat a food.	"Does it have any nuts?" "No, it doesn't."
I'm vegetarian. Is there any meat in it?	Say it when you don't eat meat.	"I'm vegetarian. Is there any meat in it?" "No, there isn't."
Can I have some water, please?	Ask it for a glass or a bottle of water.	"Can I have some water, please?" "Still or sparkling?"
What would you like to drink?	The waiter asks it to take the order for drinks.	"What would you like to drink?" "Orange juice, please."

During the meal

Enjoy your meal!	The waiter says it when he or she brings your food.	"Here you are. Enjoy your meal! " "Thank you."
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Thank you, you too.	Say it to answer a good wish.	"Enjoy your meal!" "Thank you, you too."
It's delicious.	Say it when the food is very good.	"It's delicious, thank you."
Excuse me, can we have some more bread?	Ask it when you want one more thing.	"Excuse me, can we have some more bread?" "Of course."
Could I have a fork, please?	Ask it in a polite way for a thing at the table.	"Could I have a fork, please?" "Yes, one minute."
Sorry, this isn't what I ordered.	Say it when the waiter brings the wrong dish.	"Sorry, this isn't what I ordered." "I'm sorry. I'll change it."

Paying the bill

Can I have the bill, please?	Ask it when you want to pay.	"Can I have the bill, please?" "Sure."
Is service included?	Ask it to know if the tip is in the price.	"Is service included?" "Yes, it is."
Can we pay separately?	Ask it when each person pays for their food.	"Can we pay separately?" "Yes, of course."
This is on me.	Say it when you pay for your friends.	"Let me pay. This is on me. " "Thanks!"
Keep the change.	Say it when you give the waiter some extra money.	"That's eighteen dollars." "Here's twenty. Keep the change. "
Everything was great, thanks.	Say it at the end of the meal.	"Was everything okay?" "Yes, everything was great, thanks. "

Exercise 1: Match the Phrase and the Situation

Match each phrase with the situation.

1. A table for two, please. → _____
2. What do you recommend? → _____
3. Does it have any nuts? → _____
4. Enjoy your meal! → _____
5. Sorry, this isn't what I ordered. → _____
6. Can we pay separately? → _____

Each friend pays for their own food. The waiter brings the wrong dish. The waiter brings your food. You arrive at a restaurant with a friend. You can't eat nuts. You don't know the best dish.

Exercise 2: What Do You Say?

Choose the best phrase for each situation.

7. You arrive at a restaurant with three friends. What do you say?
a) A table for four, please. b) Can I have the bill, please? c) Enjoy your meal!
8. "Are you ready to order?" "___" (You need more time.)
a) Not yet, thanks. Just a minute. b) I'd like the bill. c) Yes, it's delicious.
9. You want a coffee. What do you say?
a) Can I have a coffee, please? b) Does it have any coffee? c) Is service included?
10. "Enjoy your meal!" "___"
a) Thank you, you too. b) Not yet, thanks. c) Can we pay separately?
11. You want to pay. What do you ask the waiter?
a) Can I have the bill, please? b) What comes with it? c) A table for two, please.
12. You want to know if the tip is in the price. What do you ask?
a) Is service included? b) Is this table free? c) Are you ready to order?
13. "I'm vegetarian. ___ any meat in it?"
a) Is there b) Are there c) Do there

Exercise 3: Complete the Dialogue

Type the missing word.

14. "Can I ___ the menu, please?" "Here you are."
15. "I'd ___ the chicken soup, please." (I...)
16. "Does it have ___ nuts?" "No, it doesn't."
17. "Excuse me, can we have some ___ bread?" (m...)
18. "Can I have the ___, please?" (You want to pay.)
19. "It's eighteen dollars." "Here's twenty. Keep the ___." (c...)

Answer key

Exercise 1: Match the Phrase and the Situation

1. A table for two, please. → You arrive at a restaurant with a friend.
2. What do you recommend? → You don't know the best dish.
3. Does it have any nuts? → You can't eat nuts.
4. Enjoy your meal! → The waiter brings your food.
5. Sorry, this isn't what I ordered. → The waiter brings the wrong dish.
6. Can we pay separately? → Each friend pays for their own food.

Exercise 2: What Do You Say?

7. a) A table for four, please.
8. a) Not yet, thanks. Just a minute.
9. a) Can I have a coffee, please?
10. a) Thank you, you too.
11. a) Can I have the bill, please?
12. a) Is service included?
13. a) Is there

Exercise 3: Complete the Dialogue

14. see / have
15. like
16. any
17. more
18. bill / check
19. change