

# Asking Questions at a Restaurant

Ordering, making requests, and checking information at a restaurant.

## 1. Warm up

Discuss the following with a partner.

1. When did you last go to a restaurant? What did you eat?
2. Do you like fast food? Which fast food restaurant do you like?
3. On your own, put these foods in order of preference then compare.

..... Chinese food    ..... Japanese food    ..... Italian food    ..... French food    ..... American food



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## 2. Vocabulary

A. Choose one thing from each group that you would like to order. Compare with a partner.

### STARTERS & SIDE DISHES

Salad (V)	\$5.25
Soup (Clam chowder, lobster or tomato bisque)	\$6.50
French fries	\$3.00
Garlic bread	\$3.00
Shrimp cocktail	\$5.50

### MAIN COURSES

Steak	\$19.00
Surf and Turf	\$23.50
Pizza (A choice of toppings for \$0.50 each)	from \$10.95
Lobster	\$22.00
Mushroom risotto (V)	\$14.50

### BURGERS & SANDWICHES

Hamburger	\$9.50
Cheeseburger	\$10.50
Meatless burger (V)	\$9.00
Lobster roll	\$10.50
Tuna melt	\$9.00

### DESSERTS

Chocolate cake	\$3.50
Carrot cake	\$3.50
Ice cream	\$4.00
Fruit salad	\$3.75

### DRINKS

Tea or Coffee	\$2.50
Cola	\$2.00
Fresh OJ or Apple juice	\$3.75
Still or sparkling water	\$3.25



Surf and Turf

B. Answer the questions about the menu.

1. What do you think (V) means on the menu?
2. What does meatless mean?
3. Why is the pizza from \$10.95?
4. What is OJ?
5. What is sparkling water?
6. What do you think Surf and Turf is?

C. Take turns asking 'How much...?' questions about the price of the dishes on the menu.

A How much is a tuna melt and a coffee?

B It is eleven dollars and fifty cents.

### 3. Reading

A. Read the restaurant dialogues. Change roles and practice again.

#### Dialogue 1

A Good evening. What would you like to order?

B Could I have the lobster bisque to start, a cheeseburger, and I'll have a fruit salad for dessert.

A Okay. Would you like something to drink?

B Yes. Can I get a sparkling water please?

A Of course. Would you like a slice of lemon in your water?

B Yes, please.

A Okay. I'll be back with your water in a moment.

#### Dialogue 2

A Good afternoon. Would you like to order?

B Yes please. I'd like a lobster roll and a side of French fries, please. Oh, and a diet cola.

A No problem. Would you like salt on your French fries?

B No thank you.

A Okay, that's a lobster roll with a side of French fries and a diet cola. Anything else?

B No, that's everything. Thank you.

A My pleasure.

#### Dialogue 3

A How was your meal this evening?

B It was great, thank you. Could we have the check please?

A Of course. I'll bring it right over... Here you are.

B Thank you. Oh, I think there has been a mistake. We didn't order the side of garlic bread.

A Oh, I'm sorry about that. I'll take care of it right now.

Are you paying in cash or by credit card?

B By credit card.

A Thank you. Here is your receipt. Have a wonderful evening.

B Thank you.

**B. Answer the questions about the restaurant dialogues.**

1. What did the first customer order? How much was the customer's drink?
2. Did the first customer have a slice of lemon in their drink?
3. What did the second customer order? How much was their food?
4. Did the second customer have salt on their French fries?
5. What was wrong with the third customer's check?
6. How did the third customer pay?

**4. Asking Questions**

**A. Review the underlined expressions in Part 3A and write them in the table.**

<p>1. <b>Ordering (customer/diner)</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>3. <b>Requesting</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
<p>2. <b>Offering (restaurant server)</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>4. <b>Checking</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>

**B. Review the 'would like' question and sentence patterns used when making requests and ordering.**

Question word(s)	Would	Subject	Like to	Infinitive without to
1.	Would	you	like to	<del>to</del> order?
2. What	would	you	like to	<del>to</del> order?
			<b>Like</b>	<b>Noun</b>
3.	Would	you	like	ice?
			<b>Would like to</b>	<b>Infinitive without to</b>
4.		I	would like to	<del>to</del> order.
			<b>Would like</b>	<b>Noun</b>
5.		I	would like	a hamburger.

**C. Write 'would like' questions to get the responses.**

Question	Response
1. ....?	I'd like to order a shrimp cocktail please.
2. ....?	No, thank you. No ice.
3. ....?	I'd like the ice cream for dessert.

**D. Rewrite the informal questions in formal language using 'would like'.**

Informal	Formal
1. Anything else?	.....
2. Cash or credit card?	.....

**5. Role-play**

**A. Fill the gaps with 'would like' questions and sentences from Part 4B.**

- A Good evening. ....?
- B Yes, I would. I'd like the shrimp cocktail to start.
- A Sure. .... for a main course?
- B Umm. .... the Surf and Turf with a side of French fries, please.
- A ..... salt on your fries?
- B Yes please.
- A Okay, and what would you like to drink?
- B ..... a diet cola.
- A No problem. So... That's the shrimp cocktail to start, Surf and Turf for a main course with a side of fries, and a diet cola. I'll be back with your drink in a moment.
- How was your meal this evening?
- B It was delicious, thank you.
- A Great. ....?
- B Yes, can I have the chocolate cake for dessert?
- A Of course. .... whipped cream on that?
- B No thank you.
- A ..... anything else?
- B No thank you. .... the check, please.
- A .....?
- B I'd like to pay by credit card.

**B. Role-play the dialogue with a partner. Change roles and practice again.**

**C. Role-play the dialogue again. Change your food and drink order using the menu on Page 1.**

# Asking Questions at a Restaurant



Level: Elementary: A2  
Pre-Intermediate: A2+

Updated: Aug 17, 2022

Language: Function: Asking and answering questions.  
Forms: Modal and auxiliary verbs.

Teaching time: 120 minutes.

Overview: Students practice forming questions and sentences used for making requests, offering, and checking information with focus on formal 'would like' and 'would like to' patterns. Students also practice asking 'How much...?' questions to ask about price of menu items.

## 1. WARM UP

A warm up activity helps set the mood for the topic/lesson and is a good opportunity to assess students' ability to generate language as well as elicit target vocabulary used in the lesson. If students struggle to engage with their partners, ask questions to encourage participation. Allow a few minutes for students to complete the activity and continue the conversation if interesting.

Elicit information from students.

## 2. VOCABULARY

- A. Individually, students scan the menu and choose one thing from each group that they would like to order. Students then compare and discuss with their partner. Check students' understand vocabulary such as: clam chowder, lobster bisque, tuna melt.
- B. In pairs, students answer and discuss the questions about the menu. Elicit answers from students then ask them if they would like to eat at this restaurant and why or why not.
1. It means the food is suitable for vegetarians.
  2. It means it does not contain meat.
  3. Because that is the starting price; for every topping the price increases by 50 cents.
  4. Orange juice.
  5. Carbonated/bubbly/fizzy/soda water.
  6. Surf and Turf is a main course that combines seafood and meat, typically lobster and steak.
- C. In pairs, students practice asking and answering 'How much...?' questions about the cost of food and drinks on the menu. Finish the activity by asking the class 'How much...?' questions and students race to give the correct price.

## 3. READING

- A. In pairs, students read the dialogues. Students change roles and practice again. Answer any questions that arise.
- B. Individually or in pairs, students answer the questions about the dialogues in Part 3A. Students can compare their answers with a partner and discuss any differences or check answers with the class.
1. They ordered the lobster bisque, a cheeseburger, a fruit salad, and a sparkling water. It was \$3.25.
  2. Yes, they did.
  3. They ordered the lobster roll, a side of French fries, and a diet cola. It was \$13.50.
  4. No, they didn't.

5. They didn't order the garlic bread.
6. They paid by credit card.

## 4. ASKING QUESTIONS

- A. In pairs, students review the underlined expressions in the dialogues in Part 3A and write them under the correct title in the table. Check answers with the class.
1. **Ordering (customer/diner)**  
Could I have  
I'll have  
Can I get  
I'd like
  2. **Offering (restaurant server)**  
Would you like to...?  
Would you like...?
  3. **Requesting**  
What would you like to...?  
Could we have...?
  4. **Checking**  
Anything else?  
How was...?  
Are you paying...?
- B. As a class, discuss the question and sentence patterns used when making requests and ordering. Answer any questions students have about the patterns. You might choose to board the patterns and elicit examples from students.
- C. Individually, students write 'would like' questions to get the responses. Students can compare their questions with a partner and discuss any differences or check answers as a class.
1. What would you like to order?
  2. Would you like ice?
  3. What would you like for dessert?
- D. Individually, students rewrite the informal questions in formal language using 'would like'. Students can compare their questions with a partner and discuss any differences or check answers as a class.
1. Would you like (to order) anything else?
  2. Would you like to pay in cash or by credit card?

## 5. ROLE-PLAY

- A. Individually or in pairs, students fill the gaps with 'would like' questions and sentences from Part 4B. More than one answer is possible.
- A** Good evening. **Would you like to order?**
- B** I would like the shrimp cocktail to start.

- A** Sure. **What would you like (to have/order)** for a main course?
- B** Umm. **I would like** the Surf and Turf with a side of French fries, please.
- A** **Would you like** salt on your fries?
- B** Yes please.
- A** Okay, and what would you like to drink?
- B** **I would like** a diet cola please.
- A** No problem. So... That's the shrimp cocktail to start, Surf and turf for a main course with a side of fries, and a diet cola. I'll be back with your drink in a moment.
- How was your meal this evening?
- B** It was delicious, thank you.
- A** Great. **Would you like something for dessert/Would you like to order anything for dessert?**
- B** Yes, can I have the chocolate cake for dessert?
- A** Of course. **Would you like** whipped cream on that?
- B** No thank you.
- A** **Would you like (to order) anything else?**
- B** No thank you. **I would like** the check, please.
- A** **How would you like to pay?**
- B** I'd like to pay by credit card.

B. In pairs, students check their answers by reading the dialogue and discussing any differences. Remind students that more than one answer is possible. Students change roles and practice again.

C. In pairs, students role-play the dialogue again, but change their food and drink order using the menu on Page 1.

**As an extended activity**

In pairs, students present their role-play to the class. Other students should take simple notes. Ask other students the following questions:

1. What did they order?
2. How much did their meals cost?