

Restaurant Vocabulary

Look at the following examples for conversation in restaurants. For each item, decide who the speaker is (restaurant staff or customer).

Concerning seating

- A table for two, please.
- I have a reservation.
- Good evening. Party of three?
party=group
- There's a twenty-minute wait tonight.
- Smith, party of four.
- I'm expecting another person.
- Are you still waiting for the other member of your party?

Ordering drinks

- What would you like to drink?
- Can I start you off with something to drink?
- Could I please see the wine list/drink menu?
- I'd like a coffee, black.

Asking about specific items on a menu

- Do you have any recommendations?
- What dressings do you have?
- What's the soup today?
- Are there any nuts in that?
- Do you have any vegan/vegetarian/gluten free dishes?

Ordering food

- Are you ready to order?
- Do you need a few more minutes?
- Would you like to hear today's specials?
- The specials are listed on the board (points).
- I'd like the special with a baked potato, please.
- I'll have number six, spicy, with tofu.
- What would you like for your side?
- That comes with your choice of potato, rice pilaf or house greens.
- Soup or salad?
- What salad dressing would you like?
- We have Ranch, Italian, Thousand Island, Greek and Balsamic Vinaigrette, and our house is Parmesan Peppercorn.
house= the standard dressing used in this restaurant
- Would you like fresh-ground pepper?
- Say when.
=speak when you have enough



Telling how meat is to be cooked

- How would you like that cooked?
- How would you like that prepared?
- I'd like that _____.
 - *well done*
 - *medium well*
 - *medium*
 - *medium rare*
 - *rare*

(fully cooked)



(partially cooked)

Making special requests

- No mayo(nnais), please.
- Hold the mustard.
hold= leave off
- Could I have that without the bacon?
- I'm allergic to shellfish.
- No dairy, please. I'm lactose intolerant.

Requesting attention from a waiter or waitress

- Excuse me.
- When you get the chance, I'd like another coffee.

Requesting additional service

- Is there anything else I can get (for) you?
- Could I please have a box?

Making a complaint

- I didn't order this.
- Excuse me, I also ordered a coffee.
- Could I speak with the manager, please?

Asking for the bill

- Separate checks, please.
- I'd like the bill, please.
- You can pay at the register.
- I can take it whenever you're ready— there's no rush.
- There seems to be a mistake.
 - We did not order this item.
 - We also ordered dessert.

