

Taking Food Orders

May I take your food order now?

The fresh Cape Cod oysters and the Norwegian salmon are our specialties this week.

oysters

salmon

The oysters to start, and the salmon to follow, please.

Yes, madam.

Mary asked the guests at table 14 if she could take their food order.

She informed the guests about the specialities on the menu for that week.

Mary wrote down the details of the order on the Food Order Form.

How would you like your steak, sir? Well-done, medium or rare?

Medium, please.

How are Filets de Sole à la Meunière prepared?

The sole fillets are sautéed in sweet butter and flavoured with a little lemon juice.

Mary, is Couscous a vegetable?

No, sir, it's a type of grain made from wheat.

A guest ordered the fillet steak so Mary asked how he wanted his steak cooked.

Mary had to describe a dish on the menu for another guest.

She also explained to a guest what a certain ingredient was.

I'll have the asparagus as a starter.

I'm very sorry, sir, but we've run out of asparagus...

Would you like to try the cucumber mousse instead? It's light and very tasty.

All right. That sounds good.

Would anyone like to order extra vegetables or salad with their main course?

When a guest asked for something that was no longer available, Mary apologized...

...and recommended an alternative that was equally light.

She asked if anyone wanted an extra order of vegetables or salad.

May I repeat your order: that's 2 cucumber mousse, 1 oysters, 1 mussel salad...



Is that correct?



Yes, that's right.

Thank you. I'll be back soon with your meal.



When all the guests had placed their orders, Mary repeated the whole order back to them.

Then she asked the guests for confirmation that the order was correct.

Mary told them she would be back soon with their meal.

Food Order Form

Date	Table	Persons	Server
21/3	14	4	Mary
Qty.	Item		
	1st Course	seat numbers	
1x	oysters	[1]	
1x	mussel salad	[2]	
2x	cucumber mousse	[3] [4]	
	Main Course		
2x	salmon steak	[1] [3]	
1x	fillet steak – medium	[2]	
1x	fillet steak – rare	[4]	

Note: Dessert orders are usually written on a separate order form.

Key Vocabulary

VERBS

describe
explain
flavour
inform
order
place
recommend
repeat
run out [of]
sauté
to follow
to start

NOUNS

alternative
appetizer
asparagus
cereal
confirmation
dish
entrée
fillet
flavour
food order form
ingredient
main course
meal

mousse

oyster
salad
salmon
sole
specialities
starter
steak
vegetable
wheat

OTHERS

available
equally
fresh
light
medium
rare
tasty
tender
well-done
whole

For Special Attention

- **specialities** [in restaurants] = certain food items that are freshly made or available on that day or week etc.
- **starter** = another name for the first course of a meal
- The **main course** is the biggest part of the meal, such as meat or fish etc. [Also called the **Entrée** in America.]
- an **alternative** = another choice that is available
- **run out of [something]** = that item is finished or used up and there is no more left
- **Ingredients** are the different food items used to make a certain dish.
- **dish** = a certain type of food. The same word is used for containers for holding or serving food.
- **sauté** = fry quickly in a little oil. [French word used in English.]
- **rare, medium, well-done** = these words are used to describe the way meat is cooked. Meat is rare when it is cooked a very short time.
- **"How would you like your steak done?"** – is one way of asking how you like your steak cooked.
- **light** [food] = food that is easy to digest. Usually a small quantity.

More Expressions

Picture

- 1 "Are you ready to order now?"
"Would you like to order now?"
- 2 "We have two specialities this week.
They are..."
"The specialities for this week are ___ and ___."
- 4 "How would you like your steak done?"
"How do you want your steak cooked?"
- 7 "I'm sorry, sir, but there is no more asparagus."
"I'm afraid we are out of asparagus, sir."
- 8 "I would recommend the cucumber mousse instead."
"You may like to try the cucumber mousse instead."
- 9 "Would you like any extra vegetables or salad?"
- 10 "I'll repeat the order..."




UNIT 4 Exercises

1. The sentences in the boxes below tell you what the waiter did when he took a food order. Put his actions into the correct order by giving each box a number.

[a] He described how the dish was cooked. <input type="text"/>	[b] He informed them about the restaurant's specialities. <input type="text"/>	[c] He repeated the whole order back to them. <input type="text"/>	[d] He recommended another dish to this guest. <input type="text"/>
[e] He asked the guests if they were ready to order their food. <input type="text"/>	[f] Another guest asked for salmon for his main course. <input type="text"/>	[g] A guest wanted to know how a dish was prepared. <input type="text"/>	[h] He explained that the restaurant had run out of salmon. <input type="text"/>

2. Substitute the underlined words in the sentences below with a word from the box. Do not use the same word twice.



alternative	confirmation	meal	specialities
ingredients	main course	starter	dish

- He had a good dinner at the restaurant his friend recommended. [meal]
- She served the food on a very pretty plate. [_____]
- That restaurant has fresh food items from different countries on the menu every week. [_____]
- There were no more oysters so he had to choose an item that was available. [_____]
- For my first course I'll have the mushroom soup. [_____]
- The chef uses many different things to make that dish. [_____]
- The biggest part of his meal is usually chicken or fish. [_____]
- After repeating the whole order to the guests, he asked them if it was correct. [for _____]

3. Match the words in column A with words in column B that are opposite in meaning.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| A | B |
| 1. rare [steak]..... [<u>c</u>] | a. a few days old |
| 2. available..... [_____] | b. a big meal |
| 3. fresh..... [_____] | c. well-done |
| 4. tasty..... [_____] | d. no more left |
| 5. a light dish..... [_____] | e. not a pleasant flavour |

4. What is the waiter saying to the guest? Choose from the sentences given below, and write the number of your choice into the waiter's speech bubbles.

<p>[a]</p> <p>(4)</p> <p>Yes. I'd like the asparagus to begin with.</p>	<p>[b]</p> <p>What is the main ingredient in Ratatouille?</p>	<p>[c]</p> <p>Well-done, please.</p>	<p>[d]</p> <p>What are your specialities today?</p>
<p>[e]</p> <p>I'll have the steak, please.</p>	<p>[f]</p> <p>Could I have an extra order of Ratatouille with my main course?</p>	<p>[g]</p> <p>Yes. That's correct.</p>	<p>[h]</p> <p>Yes. I am.</p>

1. "We have some fresh asparagus from Belgium this week."
2. "How would you like your steak done?"
3. "I'll repeat the order: asparagus to start, steak, well-done, and an extra order of Ratatouille. Is that right?"
4. "Are you having a starter, madam?"
5. "Are you ready to order now, madam?"
6. "What would you like for the main course?"
7. "Yes, of course, madam."
8. "Tomatoes, madam, and some other vegetables."

5. Put the frames in Exercise 4 into the correct order. Rewrite the whole dialogue in the space below. Role-play and practise the dialogue with a partner.

Taking a Food Order

Correct Order

1. h
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Waiter: Are you ready to order now, madam?

Guest: Yes, I am.

Guest: _____

Waiter: _____

Waiter: _____

Guest: _____

Waiter: _____

Guest: _____

Waiter: _____

Guest: _____

Guest: _____

Waiter: _____

Guest: _____

Waiter: _____

Waiter: _____

Guest: _____