

# Taking a Beverage Order

Good evening. My name's Mary. I'll be serving your table this evening.



Mary, the waitress for table 14, introduced herself.

Here's our menu, sir.



She gave each guest the à la carte menu.

Would you like to order a drink before dinner?



She asked if the guests wanted an aperitif.

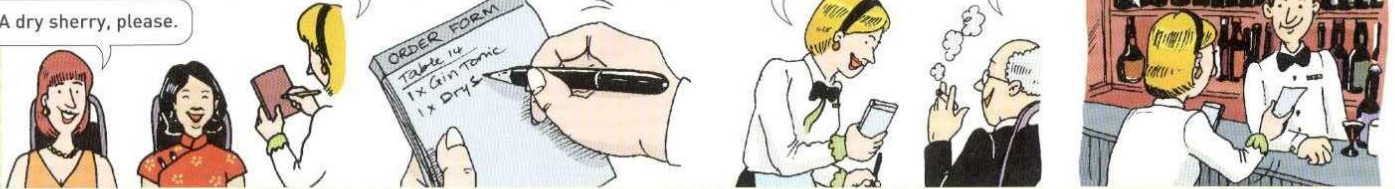
Certainly, madam. And for you, madam?

That's one gin and tonic, one dry sherry, and two beers.

Yes, that's right.

Order for table 14.

A dry sherry, please.



She took their orders in a clockwise direction...

...and wrote the details down on the beverage order form.

Mary repeated the whole order to make sure it was correct.

She gave one copy of the order to the bartender.

Your gin and tonic, madam.



When the drinks were ready, Mary arranged them on a tray. She also put some coasters and stirrers on the tray.



She took the drinks to the table, and served the lady on the right of the host first.



Mary placed the lady's drink on a coaster, near the wine glass.

## Key Vocabulary

### VERBS

arrange  
give  
introduce  
place  
put  
put  
repeat  
serve  
take [an order]

gin  
host  
menu  
order  
sherry  
stirrer  
tonic  
waitress

### OTHERS

anti-clockwise  
clockwise  
correct  
on the right  
ready

### NOUNS

à la carte  
aperitif  
bartender  
beverage  
coaster  
drink

## For Special Attention

- *beverage* is the general term for any type of drink.
- *aperitif* = French word used in English meaning an alcoholic drink before meals
- *à la carte menu* = menu where items are priced separately. The guest may pick and choose any item from this menu. [*à la carte* is a French term.]
- *clockwise* = move in the same direction as the hands of a clock 
- *anti-clockwise* – the opposite direction to the above
- *coaster* = a small mat that is put under a glass to protect the table
- *host/hostess* = the person who invites others to a function or meal

## More Expressions

### Picture

- 1 "I'm your waitress this evening."
- 2 "This is our à la carte menu, sir."
- 3 "May I take your drinks order now?"
- 4 "What about you, madam?"
- 6 "I'll repeat your order – that's one gin tonic... etc."
- 10 "A gin and tonic for you, madam."

# Clearing Unused Place Settings



There were two extra place settings or covers on table 14.



Excuse me. I'll take these away.

Holding an empty tray in her left hand, Mary picked up each item of the unused settings...

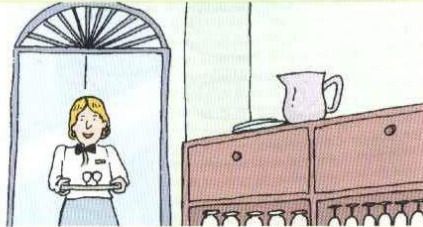


...and put it on her tray.



I'll be back shortly to take your order.

She informed the guests that she would be back soon to take their food order.

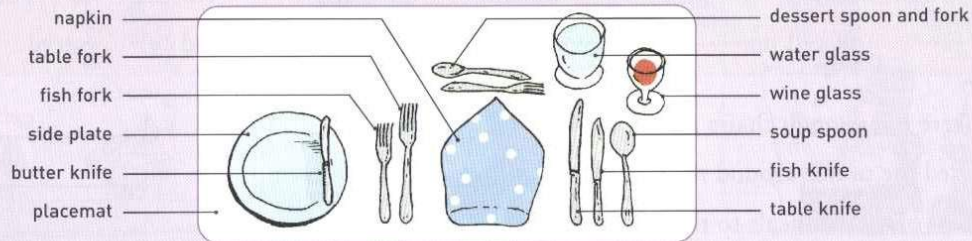


Mary took the unused cutlery and crockery to the waiter's station.



She put each item back in its correct place at the waiter's station.

## A Place Setting



### Key Vocabulary

#### VERBS

hold  
inform  
pick [up]  
put [back]  
set  
take [an order]  
take [away]

#### NOUNS

a set of [something]  
cover  
crockery  
cutlery  
flatware  
food order  
item

placemat  
place settings  
side plate  
silverware  
station  
tray

#### OTHERS

correct  
empty  
extra  
unused

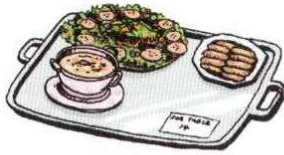
### For Special Attention

- *set a table* = arrange knives, forks etc. on the table for a meal
- *a set* = a group of similar things e.g. cutlery, a tea set
- *place settings* = a restaurant table is set according to the number of places [chairs] there are at the table.
- *unused* = not in use
- *extra* = more than needed
- *The waiter's station* is an area in the restaurant where items needed at the table are kept.
- *a food order* = the food items that guests would like to have
- *cutlery* = knives, forks, and spoons used for eating and serving food. [US] *flatware, silverware.*
- *crockery* = plates, cups, dishes etc. made from clay



# UNIT 3 Exercises

1. Give one word to describe each group of items pictured below.



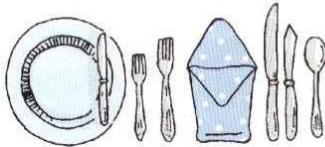
1. a food order



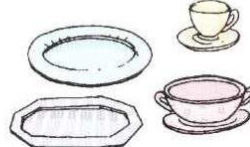
2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_



4. \_\_\_\_\_



5. \_\_\_\_\_



6. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Find a word in the box that is *opposite* in meaning to the underlined words in the sentences below. Take care! There are more words in the box than you need.

take away      give      inform      extra      correct      empty  
 picked up      clockwise      arrange      unused      serve

e.g. There were not enough chairs at that table.

[ extra ]

1. They passed the notice around the table in an anti-clockwise direction.

[ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

2. The waiters bring the meals to the table.

[ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

3. It was hard to find the books because they were in the wrong place.

[ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

4. The waitress put down the tray of cutlery before she set the table.

[ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

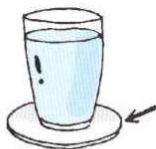
5. On a busy night all the trays are in use by the waiters.

[ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

6. During the weekend the restaurant is usually full.

[ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

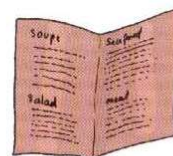
3. Name the object or person in the pictures below.



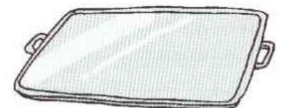
1. \_\_\_\_\_



2. \_\_\_\_\_



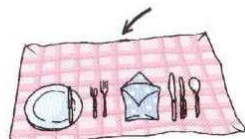
3. \_\_\_\_\_



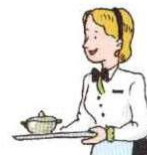
4. \_\_\_\_\_



5. \_\_\_\_\_



6. \_\_\_\_\_



7. \_\_\_\_\_

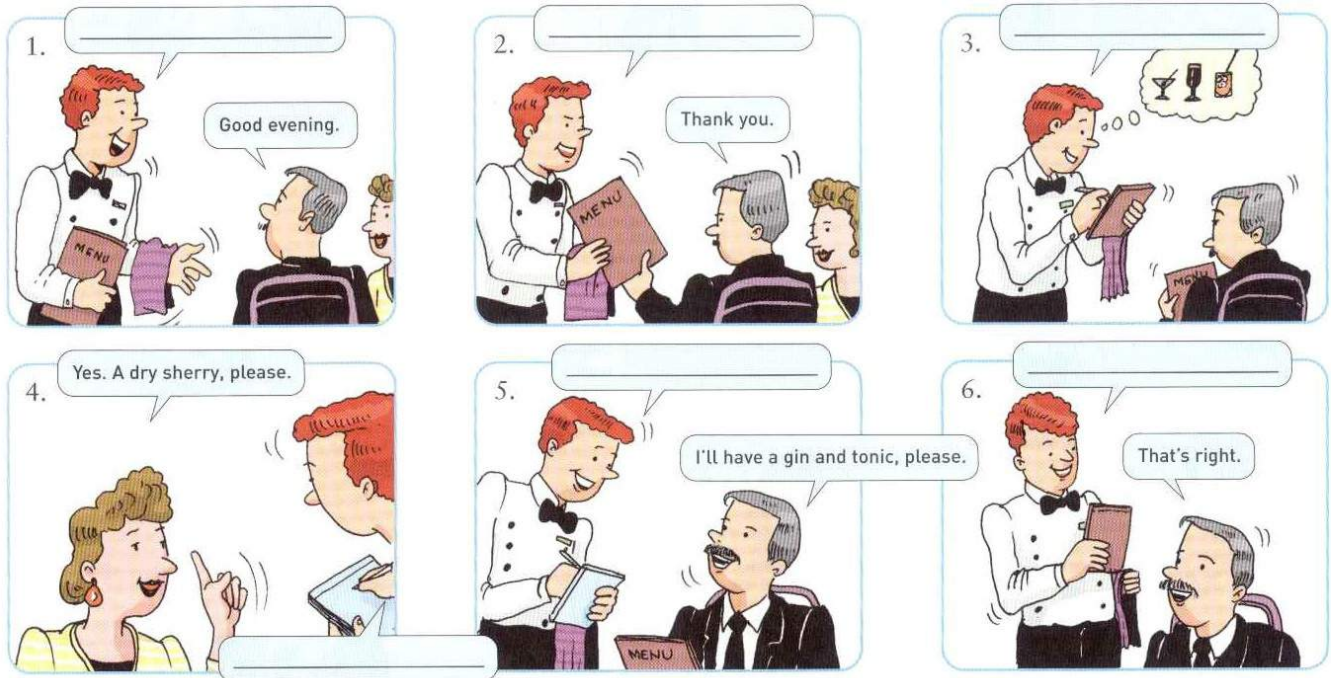


8. \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Match the terms on the left with the statements on the right.**

- |  |       |   |
|--|-------|---|
| 1. Introducing yourself.                   | [ f ] | a. "Would you like to order an aperitif?" |
| 2. Repeating an order.                     | [ ]   | b. "Order for table 14."                  |
| 3. Giving out the menu.                    | [ ]   | c. "I'll be back to take your order."     |
| 4. Asking the guests if they want a drink. | [ ]   | d. "This is our à la carte menu."         |
| 5. Informing the guests about your action. | [ ]   | e. "That's one sherry and three gins."    |
| 6. Giving the drinks order to the bar.     | [ ]   | f. "My name is Sarah."                    |

**5. What is the waiter saying in these pictures? Complete the dialogue below.**



1. Waiter: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Guest: Good evening.
2. Waiter: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Guest: Thank you.
3. Waiter: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Guest: Yes. A dry sherry, please.  
 Waiter: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Waiter: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Guest: I'll have a gin and tonic, please.
6. Waiter: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Guest: That's right.

**6. Role-play the above dialogue with a partner.**