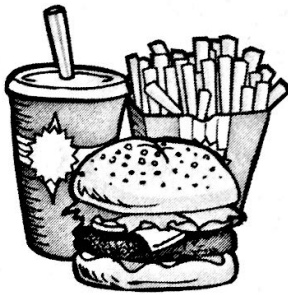


# Dining in Style



## Zippering Through the Drive-Thru



I don't know about you, but I'm **exhausted**! All that waiting for the bus and hailing taxis has made me hungry. Hungry? Yes. **In the mood** to cook? No way! Hmmm. The hard part is deciding where to go and what to eat. Restaurant choices are endless: steaks, **vegetarian** meals, burgers, pizza, and **ethnic cuisine** from just about every country on earth. Even the **picky eaters** will be happy! But

I think some **takeout** is **just what the doctor ordered**. There's nothing like fast food after a busy day. Ha—fast food for when you're feeling slow.

But don't let fast food's **bad rap** fool you. It's more than just burgers and fries with a chocolate shake. With people becoming more **health conscious** (and **conscious of** those extra pounds!), restaurants are providing more and more healthy choices: salads, water, lean proteins, and **whole grain** breads. In fact, many restaurants now **post** the calorie counts of their menu items. I'm not sure I want to know that my mega-cheeseburger lunch has more calories than I need for an entire day!

Once you have your **dream** dinner in mind, you can just **hop into** your car and head to the nearest **drive-thru**. Sure, it may seem a little strange

telling a machine that you want a mega-burger with cheese, but when you continue to the window to pay, the **cashier** will have your juicy burger order all ready to go. Ah, I can taste the fries already...

## DIALOGUE 1: TRACK 11

**MACHINE GUY:** Can I take your order, please?

**LIA:** Hmm. A burger sounds good. I think I'll have a mega-burger with cheese, extra pickles, no **mayo**.

**MACHINE GUY:** Anything to drink with that?

**LIA:** I'd like a Coke. Extra large.

**MACHINE GUY:** Anything else?

**LIA:** Yes, a **kids'** meal with chocolate milk and **chicken nuggets**.

**MACHINE GUY:** Would you like fries with that?

**LIA:** Hmm. The fries smell great, but do you have fruit instead?

**MACHINE GUY:** Sure. You can have an apple or **fruit cup**.

**KID:** Mom, you know I like fruit cup, but I'd like to have the apple. But only if they put a **pie** around it!

TIP 1



Most places will **fix the food to order**. Just ask if you want something a little different from the usual preparation.

TIP 2



Although fast food places offer many choices, don't expect a **gourmet** meal. There's a reason it's called *fast food*!

## VOCABULARY

- ① **bad rap** (also called a **bum rap**): an unfair bad opinion
- **cashier**: the person who takes the money when you buy something
- **chicken nuggets**: small pieces of chicken, covered in a batter and deep fried (come on . . . we know you love them!)
- **conscious of**: aware of, thinking about
- ① **dream**: anything that is just PERFECT! (a dream job, a dream vacation)
- ① **drive-thru**: Yep! a lane outside the restaurant you drive right through; order your food at one end, and pick it up at the other
- **ethnic cuisine**: cooking styles from different cultures

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- **exhausted:** really, really tired
  - **to fix the food to order:** prepare exactly as you would like it
  - **fruit cup:** a serving of mixed fruits
  - **gourmet:** very special food, often expensive
  - **health conscious:** concerned about things that are good for your health
- ① **hop into:** get into
- ① **in the mood:** wanting to do something
- ① **just what the doctor ordered:** something that will be perfect for what you need
- ① **kids:** children
- ① **mayo:** short for *mayonnaise*, a white spread made from eggs and oil
- ① **picky eaters:** people who don't like many different kinds of food
- **pie:** a pastry treat, usually prepared with fruit
  - **post:** show clearly
  - **takeout:** pretty much what it says. You buy the food, and take it with you to eat at home
- ① **thru:** a short way to write *through*
- **vegetarian:** without meat products
  - **whole grains:** grains (for example, oat and wheat) that are not processed



## PRONUNCIATION POINTER

Don't forget to connect your words and phrases like native speakers do. *Hop into* sounds like ***hoppinto***.

## GRAMMAR REMINDER 1: Stative Verbs

Some verbs (called stative verbs) are usually only used in the simple form. They refer to states or conditions. Examples of stative verbs are verbs of the senses (for example, *smell* and *taste*) and verbs of feeling (for example, *love*, *like*, *hate*, and *want*).

Can you see the stative verbs in the dialogue above?

- The fries *smell* great.
- I *like* fruit cup.

## GRAMMAR REMINDER 2 : *Would You Like or Do You Like?*

Should you say what *would* you like or what *do* you like?

You remember that *I would (I'd) like* is a more polite way to say what you want than *I want*. However, someone may just want to know, in general, what you like. Then you may hear, "What do you like?" You might answer that, in general, you like something: "I like coffee because it helps me wake up."

If someone asks you what you **would like**, they are asking **what you want** to eat or drink at that moment. If they ask you what **you like**, it is a general question about your preferences.

### Examples:

What **would you like**, tea or coffee?

**I'd like** a coffee, please; I'm feeling really sleepy so I need something to wake me up.

What **do you like**: tea, coffee, or soda?

**I like** coffee best, but the caffeine keeps me awake.

## A Little More Upscale

Maybe you've decided that a table near a window sounds better than a front seat near a **windshield**. It may be time to **splurge** on a nice **dinner out**. It's easy to find a nice **sit-down restaurant** without **breaking the bank**. Especially in a tough economy, restaurants will do almost anything to get your business. Lots of places offer a **Restaurant Week** menu all year. Take advantage of the **early-bird special**. You can have a fancy dinner at a much lower price.

Many restaurants are chain restaurants; this means they have restaurants of the same name and type in many towns or cities. At many places, you can call ahead and make a reservation, and they will save a table for you at a certain time. They'll ask what time you'd like to eat, and how many will be in your **party**. Some restaurants won't take a reservation. For those places, you **check in** at the **hostess station** when you arrive. The hostess will write down your name and call you when a table is **free**. Some very popular restaurants have a very long wait for a table. The hostess may give you a cool little **gadget** to hold while you wait in the bar or outside. When a table becomes available, the gadget buzzes and vibrates and little lights start **flashing**. (This can be



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is no fun, but th

## DIALOGUE

**SERVER:** Hi. V  
**server** today. Y  
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some **appetize**

**ALAN:** I think I

**SERVER:** We

**ALAN:** What's

**SERVER:** The  
a chardonnay

**ALAN:** I'll have

**SERVER:** Anc

**LIA:** I'm drivin

**SERVER:** Wo

**ALAN:** No, I tl

**SERVER:** Sur

**ALAN:** I'd like

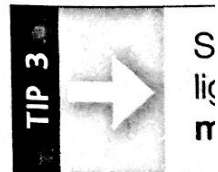
**SERVER:** Anc

**LIA:** I'll have t

**SERVER:** The

**ALAN:** I'll ha

**LIA:** And I'll h



very entertaining!) The flashing lights mean that your table is ready. The wait is no fun, but the little gadget sure is.

## DIALOGUE 2: TRACK 12

**SERVER:** Hi. Welcome to the Farkel Family Restaurant. I'll be your **server** today. You're **just in time** for our early-bird special, so you can choose from that menu or from the regular menu. Can I start you off with some **appetizers** and something to drink?

**ALAN:** I think I may have a beer. What do you have **on draft**?

**SERVER:** We have Statler Lite and Orange Cow **on tap**.

**ALAN:** What's your **house wine**?

**SERVER:** The house red is a **Napa Valley** cabernet, and the house white is a chardonnay from Mendoza, Argentina.

**ALAN:** I'll have a glass of cabernet.

**SERVER:** And for you, ma'am?

**LIA:** I'm driving so I'll just have an **OJ**.

**SERVER:** Would you like any appetizers?

**ALAN:** No, I think we'll just have the **entree**. I'll have the **filet mignon**.

**SERVER:** Sure. **How would you like it?**

**ALAN:** I'd like it **rare**. And **hold** the mushrooms.

**SERVER:** And for you, ma'am?

**LIA:** I'll have the **seafood** combination with rice.

**SERVER:** The dinner comes with a vegetable. What would you like?

**ALAN:** I'll have broccoli and a **side salad**.

**LIA:** And I'll have some **sautéed** onions with the seafood.

TIP 3



Steak is usually prepared to order. If you like your meat very lightly cooked, order it **rare**. More cooked, but still pink is **medium**. Cooked for a longer time with no pink is **well done**.

TIP 4



A party in a restaurant is not necessarily a birthday party, although it could be. Confused? A *party* is simply the number of people in a group wishing to share the same table.

TIP 5



The law is very clear: Don't drink and drive! Many people have a "**designated driver**" when they go out. This person will not drink any alcohol, and he or she will be responsible for driving.

## VOCABULARY

- **appetizer**: a small dish of food served before the main meal
- ① **breaking the bank**: costing too much for your budget
- ① **check in**: let the staff know that you would like a table
- **dinner out**: Yes! Eating anywhere but home
- ① **early-bird special**: a lower-cost menu, usually offered before 6 p.m.
- **entrée**: the main meal
- **filet mignon**: a very tender cut of steak
- **flashing**: going on and off very quickly
- **free**: available; can also mean *at no cost*
- **gadget**: a cool little device that has some special use
- ① **hold**: don't include something
- **hostess station**: usually at the front of the restaurant, where the staff will take your name
- **house wine**: the brand of wine a restaurant serves if the customer doesn't want something particular
- **how would you like it?**: how you would like your meat cooked (rare, medium, or well done)
- ① **just in time**: arrived right before it's too late
- **Napa Valley**: a famous wine region in California
- ① **OJ**: Orange Juice
- **on draft, on tap**: pulled from a keg, rather than served in a bottle
- **party**: the people who are joining you for dinner
- **Restaurant Week**: a week when fancy restaurants offer a special menu at lower cost
- **sautéed**: fried quickly in an open pan

- **seafood**:
- **server**: al
- **side sala**
- ① **sit-down**  
who will s
- **splurge**:
- **upscale**:
- **windshie**

## GRAMM

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- **seafood:** various types of fish
- **server:** also called a *waiter* or *waitress*
- **side salad:** a small salad served with or before the entree
- ① **sit-down restaurant:** a nicer restaurant with tables and waiters who will serve you
- **splurge:** spend a little extra money for a special treat
- **upscale:** a little fancier; more special
- **windshield:** the large front window of a car

### GRAMMAR REMINDER 3: Count/Noncount Nouns

Count nouns (things you can count, for example, one glass, two glasses... you get the idea!) will take the verb that goes with the number. However, noncount nouns (things you can't count, for example, *wine*, *sugar*, and *water*) take a singular verb.

**Note:** *Count* nouns are sometimes called **countable** nouns and *noncount* nouns are sometimes called **uncountable** nouns. It's the same idea, no matter what they're called: some things you can count, and some things you can't!

**Examples:**

**Water is** the healthiest beverage. (noncount)

The **house wine is** delicious. (noncount)

Some scientists say that **sugar is** not good for your health. (noncount)

**Two glasses** (of wine) **are** expensive. (count)

**A cup** (of coffee) **is** a nice dessert. (count)

**Remember:** A noncount noun (for example, *beer*, *coffee*) acts like a count noun if you put it into a container: a bottle of beer; a cup of coffee. In fact, if you simply say *a beer* or *a coffee*, people will know what you want. See how Lia asks for a *Coke* in dialogue 1 and Alan asks for a *beer* in dialogue 2.

# Is This What I Ordered?



We know what you're thinking: I'm having a **lovely** dinner out, why should I complain? American restaurants place a **top priority** on excellent service. Because people have so many choices when dining out, if a restaurant's service isn't perfect, it can lose customers. The waiters and waitresses know

that great service equals great tips, so they'll do their best to be sure you have an excellent meal. But, let's **face it**: everyone has a **bad day**. You may have a **beef about** something if the food or service is not right.

Servers are not surprised if a customer has a **legitimate complaint**. For example, it is **absolutely** unacceptable for anything in the **place setting** to be dirty. Your server should **apologize** and **immediately** replace the item with one that is **spotlessly** clean. Although this is not fast food, if the service is too slow or if the waiter doesn't ask often enough if there's anything you need, then you can complain. If the food is not hot when it arrives, you can complain. If you don't get the dish that you ordered, you can complain. Of course, the best way to complain is to be very polite.

If there has been a problem and if you're polite when you **mention** it, the restaurant staff will usually try their best to **correct** their mistake. There's an expression in English: "You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar." This means that if you are polite, people will try to make you happy. If you are rude, they may not try their best.

## DIALOGUE 3: TRACK 13

**ALAN:** Miss... Excuse me, but my glass has a **smudge** on it.

**SERVER:** I'm terribly sorry sir. I'll get you a clean one right away.

\*\*\* *Some time later* \*\*\*

**ALAN:** Miss, I'm still waiting for a clean glass, and we still haven't received our salads. We've been waiting a long time for our food.

**SERVER:** I am SO sorry! We're a little busier than usual tonight, and we're **short-staffed**. I'll bring it immediately. I'll also bring more water.

**SERVER:** He...  
on the house. The  
choice, also **complim**  
Sorry you had to wait.  
**ALAN:** Thank you ver

**TIP 6** → A polite w  
Use ma'a

**TIP 7** → Another ti  
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**PRON POINT**  
We get the word r  
hear the word ma  
as in dam or Sam

- ### VOCABULARY
- absolutely: comp
  - apologize: say yo
  - backstroke: you c
  - ① bad day: a day w
  - ① beef about: compr
  - correct: fix; to ma
  - ① face it: accept the
  - immediately: at c
  - legitimate compl
  - lovely: very nice
  - mention: say



\*\*\* A few moments later \*\*\*

**SERVER:** Here you are, sir, and I've brought you another glass of wine, **on the house**. The manager would also like to give you a dessert of your choice, also **compliments of the house**. We're so sorry for the **mix-up**. Sorry you had to wait.

**ALAN:** Thank you very much.

TIP 6



A polite way to address a man you don't know is *sir*. Use *ma'am* for a woman.

TIP 7



Another tip about tips: You should tip in restaurants. For many servers, tips make up most of their pay. Usually the tip is 15% to 20% of the bill. If the food/service is exceptionally good, you may like to leave a little more.



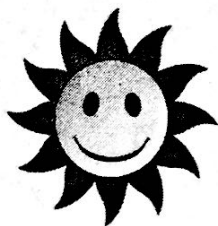
## PRONUNCIATION POINTER

We get the word *ma'am* from the formal word *madam*. You may never hear the word *madam*, but you will surely hear *ma'am*, pronounced *mam*, as in *dam* or *Sam*.

## VOCABULARY

- **absolutely:** completely
- **apologize:** say you are sorry for something
- **backstroke:** you guessed it... a swimming move done on your back!
- ① **bad day:** a day when you seem to have a lot of problems
- ① **beef about:** complain
- **correct:** fix; to make something right
- ① **face it:** accept the truth
- **immediately:** at once; right away
- **legitimate complaint:** a good reason for mentioning a problem
- **lovely:** very nice
- **mention:** say

- ① **mix-up**: a mistake
- ① **on the house, compliments of the house**: it's FREE!
- **place setting**: dishes, glasses, and silverware on the table
- **server**: waiter or waitress
- **short-staffed**: not enough people working
- **smudge**: a dirty mark
- **spotless**: perfectly clean
- **top priority**: most important



### **Fun Fact!**

Restaurant jokes are popular. Here's one:  
*Customer*: Hey, waiter, what is this fly doing in my soup?  
*Waiter*: I think it's doing the **backstroke!**

## **GRAMMAR REMINDER 4: More Count/Noncount Nouns**

More tips for count/noncount nouns:  
 Singular count nouns take articles (*a, an, the*). Noncount nouns are usually considered singular, but they do not take articles.

### **Example:**

- I would like **an** apple. (count)
- I think I'll have **a** glass of beer. (count)
- **The** glass is dirty. (count)
- **Rice** is a good choice with seafood. (noncount)
- **Sugar** is good in coffee. (noncount)

## **MORE FUN WITH IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS: Food**

- **chew the fat**: have a casual conversation  
*After the meeting, Tom and Susan stayed a few minutes to **chew the fat**.*
- **in a nutshell**: a summary  
*The park ranger gave a very long report about the dangers of forest fires. **In a nutshell**: Be careful with your campfires!*
- **a piece of cake**: easy!  
*Lina was so relieved about her driving test. She had expected it to be tricky and hard, but it was **a piece of cake!***

• take it with a grain of salt  
 Because the study is preliminary, people should take it with a grain of salt.  
 • butter someone up  
 Ellen was hoping for a big promotion, but her boss with compliments took the compliment!

• **take it with a grain of salt:** don't believe it completely  
*Because the study was done by a company that wants to sell the product, people should **take the results with a grain of salt.***

• **butter someone up:** say nice things to someone to win his or her favor  
*Ellen was hoping for a promotion at work, so she tried to **butter up** the boss with compliments about how nice she looked. (But we bet the boss took the compliment with a grain of salt!)*

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