

Patina · Speaking

Ordering at a Restaurant

what they say · what you say · how polite to be

★ the whole meal · ★★ four ways to ask · ★★ not on the menu · ★★★ say it four ways

★ The whole meal, in order

The server speaks first. You answer. Tap any line to hear it.

YOU SIT DOWN

THE SERVER SAYS

Are you ready to order? 

YOU SAY

Yes, I'm ready. 

Yes, we're ready. 

Not yet, please. One more minute. 

YOUR MAIN COURSE 1 · Most polite

THE SERVER SAYS

What can I get you? 

YOU SAY

I would like to have the cheeseburger, please. 

Could I have the fish and chips, please? 

DRINKS 2 · Polite

THE SERVER SAYS

And to drink? 

YOU SAY

I'd like a coffee, please. 

Just water, please. 

SIDES 3 · Friendly

THE SERVER SAYS

Would you like any sides with that? 

YOU SAY

Sure, I'll have the fries. 

No, thank you. 

ANYTHING ELSE 3 · Friendly

THE SERVER SAYS

YOU SAY

Anything else? 🎧

No, that's all, thanks. 🎧

Could I have some more water, please? 🎧

AT THE END **2 · Polite**

YOU START

The server does not ask. You ask. 🎧

YOU SAY

Could we get the check, please? 🎧

Excuse me. The check, please. 🎧

★★ Four ways to ask

Four ways to ask. Numbers 1, 2 and 3 say the same thing. Number 4 is a question.

1

MOST POLITE

Could I have the soup, please? 🗣️

Your first words to a stranger.

2

POLITE

I'd like the soup, please. 🗣️

You have started talking.

3

FRIENDLY

Sure, I'll have the soup. 🗣️

You know each other now.

?

QUESTION

Do you have soda? 🗣️

You do NOT see it on the menu.

Not sure? Use number 1. It is never wrong.

Politeness goes down as the meal goes on. But a new request goes back up to number 1.

I would like the soup. 🗣️ → **I'd like the soup.** 🗣️

I would like a coffee. 🗣️ → **I'd like a coffee.** 🗣️

Number 2 has a short way, and it is what you will hear. Would becomes one letter: 'd.

"I want the chicken" is not wrong. But number 1 and number 2 sound better in a restaurant.

★★ When it is not on the menu

You want something. You do not see it on the menu. Ask this.

Could I have the soup, please? 🗣️

You **CAN** see it. Please bring me that.

Do you have soup? 🗣️

You **CANNOT** see it. Is there any here?

Do you have soda? 🗣️

Do you have decaf coffee? 🗣️

Do you have hot sauce? 🗣️

Excuse me, do you have a kids' menu? 🗣️

YOU **Do you have soda?** 🗣️

SERVER **Yes, we do.** 🗣️

YOU **Great. Could I have one, please?** 🗣️

Ask if they have it. Then order it.

★★★ Say it four ways

Ask for the soup four ways. Look at the number. Then write it.

1

MOST POLITE

2

POLITE

3

FRIENDLY

?

QUESTION

Suggest a correction or improvement