



Ordering Food at a Restaurant in Another Language

KS3 MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Ages 11-14 ⌚ 3 min read

Why Learn to Order Food in Another Language?

One of the best reasons to learn a foreign language is to use it in real situations—and ordering food is perfect! Whether you're on holiday in **France**, visiting **Spain**, or travelling anywhere new, knowing how to order a meal helps you enjoy local food, show respect to the people living there, and feel more confident exploring the world.

Before You Go: Menu Vocabulary

Start by learning food words in your chosen language. Common categories include **appetisers** (starters), **main courses**, **side dishes**, **desserts**, and **drinks**. Many restaurants in tourist areas have **bilingual menus** with pictures, which really helps! If you're nervous, look up the restaurant's menu online before you arrive—most restaurants now have websites or are on **Google Maps** where you can see photos and descriptions.

Think of it like preparing for a game: you wouldn't play football without knowing the rules, so don't order food without learning a few key words first!

The Basic Conversation

Most restaurant ordering follows a pattern. First, a server asks "**How many people?**" Then you'll be seated and offered drinks. When ready, you signal the server and say something like "**I would like...**" followed by your dish name. Always use "**please**" and "**thank you**"—these magic words work in every language and show respect.

Don't worry about perfect pronunciation. Servers in restaurants hear many accents and will understand you're trying. If they don't understand, point at the menu or ask for help: "**Can you help me?**"

Handling Special Requests

You might have dietary needs—perhaps you're **vegetarian**, **allergic** to nuts, or don't like spicy food. Learn phrases like **"I don't eat meat"** or **"Is there nuts in this?"** Writing these down on your phone can help if speaking feels too tricky.

Think of it like playing a video game with subtitles: you don't need to understand every word, just enough to complete the mission!

After You Order

Once food arrives, thank the server. If something's wrong, calmly explain: **"This is too hot"** or **"I ordered chicken, not fish."** Staff expect honest feedback and will help fix it. At the end, ask for the **bill** (called **l'addition** in **French** or **la cuenta** in **Spanish**).

Ordering food in another language is achievable and fun. Start small, be patient with yourself, and remember that most people appreciate when you try speaking their language.