

## RESTAURANT MEAL—TRANSCRIPT &amp; NOTES

## DIALOGUE

**Waitress:** Good evening sir, madam<sup>1</sup>. Are you ready to order<sup>2</sup>?

**Man:** Yes, I think so<sup>3</sup>.

**Waitress:** Would you like a starter?

**Man:** No, I think we'll just have a main course and a dessert<sup>4</sup>.

**Man:** What are you having<sup>5</sup>, dear?

**Woman:** I'm going to have the fish.

**Man:** And I'll have<sup>6</sup> the steak. Well done<sup>7</sup>, please.

**Waitress:** Certainly sir. And what would you like to drink?

**Man:** Two glasses of red wine<sup>8</sup> and a bottle of mineral water<sup>9</sup>, please.

**Waitress:** And for dessert?

**Man:** Fruit salad for me.

**Woman:** And the same for me too.

## LISTENING

If you are going for a meal in a restaurant, it's always a good idea to book<sup>9</sup> in advance.

When you arrive, the waiter or waitress<sup>10</sup> will show you to your table. He or she<sup>11</sup> will then hand you the menu and give you some time to choose<sup>12</sup> what you want to eat.

When you are ready to order, the waiter will take your order and ask you what you want<sup>13</sup> to drink.

A typical restaurant meal consists of three courses: a starter, a main course<sup>14</sup>, and a dessert. However<sup>15</sup>, people sometimes choose not to have the starter or the dessert.

Some restaurants offer fixed menus at a set price, but you may prefer to order 'à la carte'<sup>16</sup>.

When your food is ready, the waiter will bring<sup>17</sup> it to your table and serve it.

During your meal the waiter may come to ask you if everything is OK. Hopefully<sup>18</sup>, it will be, but if you have a dirty glass or cutlery<sup>19</sup>, or your food is cold, or the service too slow, or the music too loud, then you may have to complain. But do so<sup>20</sup> politely.

At the end of the meal, the waiter will bring you the bill<sup>21</sup>. If you enjoyed<sup>22</sup> your meal and were satisfied with the service you may decide to leave a tip<sup>23</sup>. About ten percent of the total is customary.

## QUESTIONS

- How often do you eat in a restaurant?
- Describe your favourite restaurant.
- Describe a meal you had recently in a restaurant.
- How do you choose which restaurants to go to?
- What are the things that make a good restaurant for you?

## LANGUAGE NOTES

1. **Madam** is the female equivalent of 'sir' when addressing customers in shops, restaurants, etc.
2. **Order** can be a verb or a noun: *He ordered (v.) a takeaway. The waiter took our order (n.).*
3. In English, you cannot just say 'I think' after 'yes'. You have to add 'so'. The negative form is 'I don't think so': *Is this the right address? — I think so/I don't think so.*
4. Don't confuse **dessert** (food) which has a double 's' and has the stress on the second syllable, and **desert** (e.g., the Sahara), which only has one 's' and has the stress on the first syllable.
5. The verb 'to have' is used with the meaning of 'going to eat' here, which is why it can be used in the progressive form. For possession, we always use the present simple: *I have a big kitchen* (not ~~I'm having~~).
6. **Steak** is usually served 'rare' (=cooked just on the outside), 'medium', or 'well done'.
7. There are three basic types of **wine**: red, white, and rosé. And no, rosé is not made by mixing red and white!
8. **Mineral water** can be 'still' (without gas), or 'sparkling' (with gas). You can also ask for tap water.
9. You can **book** or **reserve** a table. The corresponding nouns are 'booking' and 'reservation': *Do you have a reservation?*
10. Many restaurants now use the word **server**, which can refer to a man or woman.
11. To avoid having to say 'he or she' if the gender of the subject is unknown, some people use 'they' (though some grammar purists dislike this usage): *The server will show you to your table. They (yes!) will then give you the menu.*
12. **Choose** is an irregular verb: choose, chose, chosen.
13. '*... what you want to drink*' is an indirect question. Note that in indirect questions we do not use the auxiliary verb 'do', and the subject precedes the verb. The direct question is, of course, '*What do you want to drink?*'.
14. Americans use the word 'entree' to refer to the **main course**, which is confusing because 'entrée' is French for 'starter'!
15. **However** is a conjunction used to express contrast. It means the same as 'nevertheless'.
16. The French term **à la carte** refers to food that can be ordered as separate items, rather than as part of a set meal.
17. **Bring** is an irregular verb: bring, brought, brought. People bring things to the place where we are: *Please bring a bottle to the party.*
18. **Hopefully** is used for saying that you hope something will happen: *Hopefully, we'll get more news next week.*
19. **Cutlery** is an uncountable mass noun used for knives, forks and spoons.
20. **So** goes with 'do', not 'politely'. 'Do so' means 'do the thing that's just been mentioned'. The usage is similar to 'I think so'.
21. Americans use the word 'check' for **bill**: *Can I get the check?*
22. The verb 'to enjoy' is used in the same way as 'to like', and has a similar meaning: *Did you enjoy/like your meal?*
23. In America you should always leave a tip.

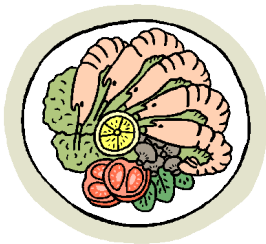


# RESTAURANT MEAL — WORKSHEET

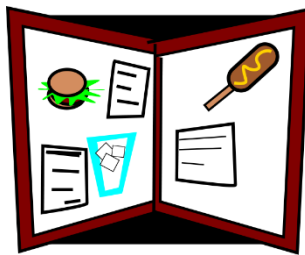
## A. MATCH THE WORDS WITH THE PICTURES

waiter tip cutlery steak bill waitress fish menu restaurant  
 wine starter fruit salad glass mineral water dessert complain

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



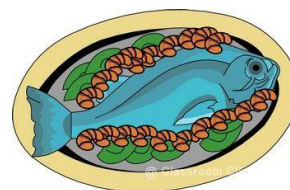
9



10



11



12



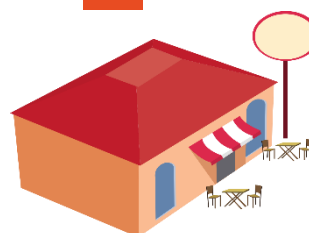
13



14



15



16



## B. CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

If you are going (1) *to/for* a meal in a restaurant, it's always a good idea to book (2) *in/on* advance.

When you arrive, the waiter or waitress will show you (3) *at/to* your table. He or she will then hand you the menu and give you some time to (4) *chose/choose* what you want to eat.

When you are ready to order, the waiter will (5) *take/place* your order and ask you what you want to drink.

A typical restaurant meal consists (6) *on/of* three courses: a starter, a main course, and a dessert. (7) *However/Although*, people sometimes choose not to have the starter or the dessert.

Some restaurants offer fixed menus at a set (8) *prize/price*, but you may prefer to order 'à la carte'.

When your food (9) *is/will be* ready, the waiter will bring it to your table and (10) *serve/serves* it.

(11) *While/During* your meal the waiter may come to ask you if everything is OK. (12) *Hopefully/Fortunately*, it will be, but if you have a dirty glass or cutlery, or your food is cold, or the service too slow, or the music too loud, (13) *after/then* you may have to complain. But do so politely.

At the end of the meal, the waiter will bring you the (14) *cheque/bill*. If you enjoyed your meal and were satisfied (15) *with/of* the service you may decide to leave a tip. (16) *About/Amount* ten percent of the total is customary.

## ANSWER KEY

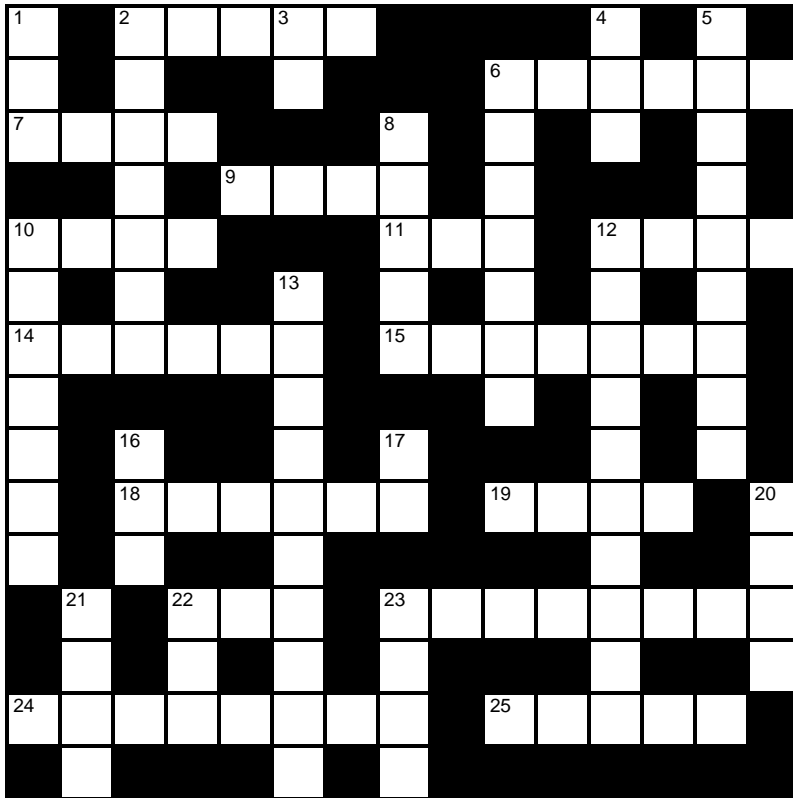
### A. MATCH THE WORDS AND PICTURES

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. starter       | 9. dessert     |
| 2. menu          | 10. tip        |
| 3. cutlery       | 11. fish       |
| 4. fruit salad   | 12. glass      |
| 5. complain      | 13. bill       |
| 6. steak         | 14. waitress   |
| 7. waiter        | 15. restaurant |
| 8. mineral water | 16. wine       |

### B. CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

- |            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| 1. to      | 9. is         |
| 2. in      | 10. serve     |
| 3. to      | 11. During    |
| 4. choose  | 12. Hopefully |
| 5. take    | 13. then      |
| 6. of      | 14. bill      |
| 7. However | 15. with      |
| 8. price   | 16. About     |

# RESTAURANT MEAL — CROSSWORD



Web Version

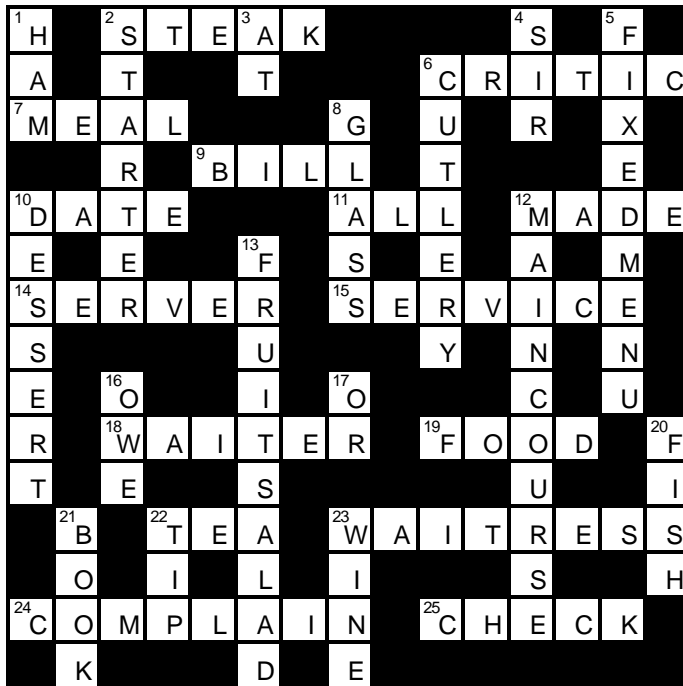
**Across**

- 2 You can have it rare, medium, or well done (5)
- 6 (Restaurant) reviewer (6)
- 7 Enjoy your \_\_\_\_! (4)
- 9 You pay this after eating (4)
- 10 Romantic (restaurant) rendez-vous (4)
- 11 “ \_\_\_\_ you can eat for \$10” (3)
- 12 I'll have the home- \_\_\_\_ apple pie (4)
- 14 Waiter or waitress (6)
- 15 It's usually included in the bill (7)
- 18 Male server (6)
- 19 The things you eat (4)
- 22 Hot drink (3)
- 23 Female server (8)
- 24 What you can do if you're not satisfied (8)
- 25 American word for 'bill' (5)

**Down**

- 1 Meat often served cold in salads (3)
- 2 The first course of a meal (7)
- 3 We ate \_\_\_\_ an expensive restaurant (2)
- 4 Polite way of addressing a male customer (3)
- 5 A set list of dishes (5,4)
- 6 Knife, fork, and spoon (7)
- 8 You drink wine or water from this (5)
- 10 Usually the last course (7)
- 12 The biggest part of a meal (4,6)
- 13 A healthy dessert (5,5)
- 16 How much do we \_\_\_\_ you? (3)
- 17 Red wine \_\_\_\_ white wine? (2)
- 20 Salmon or tuna, for example (4)
- 21 To reserve (a table) (4)
- 22 Extra money you give to a waiter (3)
- 23 Alcoholic drink made from grapes (4)

# SOLUTION



## RESTAURANT MEAL — WORD SEARCH



Web Version

Bill	Mineral water
Book	Order
Check	Server
Complain	Service
Course	Starter
Cutlery	Steak
Dessert	Tip
Fish	Waiter
Food	Waitress
Fruit salad	Well done
Glass	Wine
Meal	
Menu	

**SOLUTION**

