

Ordering Fast Food

In this lesson, you will learn some useful expressions for ordering food in a fast-food restaurant. You may need to order fast food in a food court, in a restaurant, at a food cart, or at a drive-thru. When you order fast food, do you usually get takeout?



Pre-Reading

A. Spelling Quiz

"I don't like fast food. I never eat in fast-food restaurants."

Why is there a hyphen in the second sentence?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. combo | a) basic or signature (soup, salad, dressing, or wine) |
| _____ 2. a side | b) a dessert dish of ice cream with fruit or other toppings |
| _____ 3. house | c) a meal combination that usually includes a main food item as well as a side or beverage |
| _____ 4. Caesar | d) to choose to add milk, cream, sugar, etc. |
| _____ 5. ranch | e) an additional part of the meal, such as potatoes, soup, or salad |
| _____ 6. soft drink | f) ice cream mixed with milk to create a thick drink |
| _____ 7. creamer | g) a type of salad with romaine lettuce, creamy dressing, croutons, and bacon bits |
| _____ 8. take (a beverage) | h) a creamy garlic dressing with onion and herbs |
| _____ 9. sundae | i) a carbonated beverage, also "soda" or "pop" |
| _____ 10. shake | j) a small container that contains one serving of cream |

Dialogue Reading

Read the dialogue with your partner a few times. Take turns being each character. Practice your intonation and pronunciation. Circle any new words or phrases that you need to practice.

Cashier: Hello. **Are you ready to order?**

Customer: Yes. **I'll have combo #1, please.**

Cashier: Okay. **Would you like fries, salad, or onion rings for a side?**

Customer: Salad, please.

Cashier: House salad or Caesar?

Customer: House, please.

Cashier: **What kind of dressing would you like?**
We have ranch, Italian, blue cheese, or house dressing.

Customer: Ranch, please. On the side.

Cashier: Sure. **What would you like to drink?**

Customer: Could I have a coffee instead of a soft drink?

Cashier: Sure. How do you take your coffee?

Customer: One creamer and two sugars, please.

Cashier: Okay. **Is that everything?**

Customer: No. I also need three chocolate sundaes and a small strawberry shake.

Cashier: Okay. **Your total comes to \$21.45.**

Practice

Work with your partner. Role-play the dialogue on page 2, substituting the different expressions below. Then switch roles.

1. **Are you ready to order?**

- Are you all set?
- I can help the next customer.
- May I take your order?
- Next, please.

2. **I'll have combo #1, please.**

- I'll have the cheeseburger combo.
- I'll have the breakfast special, please.
- I'd like to order the kid's pack.

3. **Would you like fries, salad, or onion rings for a side?**

- What would you like with that?
- You can have fries, salad, or onion rings.
- Is that with French fries or a baked potato?

4. **What kind of dressing would you like?**

- Would you like any sauce with that?
- Do you need any condiments?
(ketchup, mustard, vinegar, hot sauce)

5. **What would you like to drink?**

- And for your beverage?
- What kind of pop do you want?
- Would you like a drink with that?

6. **Is that everything?**

- Will that be all for today?
- Will there be anything else with that?
- Would you care for some dessert with that?

7. **Your total comes to \$21.45.**

- That's \$10.75, please.
- Your bill is \$20.00 even.
- Your order comes to \$54.90.
- Will that be cash, credit, or debit?

Did you know...

...that uncountable beverages and foods are often used as countable nouns in restaurants?

- I need three beers and two milks.
- I take two sugars (pack or spoonfuls) and one cream (creamer container or small pour)

Listening Practice

Two student volunteers will go to the front of the class and read the dialogue from page 2. Fill in the missing words as you listen. Listen again with two new speakers. Now look back at page 2 and check your work. Did you fill in the correct words? Did you spell everything correctly?

Cashier: Hello. Are you ready _____ ?

Customer: Yes. I'll have _____ #1, please.

Cashier: Okay. Would you like fries, salad, or onion rings _____ ?

Customer: Salad, please.

Cashier: _____ or Caesar?

Customer: House, please.

Cashier: What kind of dressing would you like?
We have ranch, Italian, blue cheese, or house _____ .

Customer: Ranch, please. _____ .

Cashier: Sure. What would you like to drink?

Customer: Could I have a coffee _____ a soft drink?

Cashier: Sure. How do you _____ your coffee?

Customer: One creamer and two sugars, please.

Cashier: Okay. Is that _____ ?

Customer: No. I also need three chocolate _____ and a small strawberry shake.

Cashier: Okay. Your total _____ \$21.45.

Write Your Own Dialogue

Write a dialogue with a partner using phrases from page 3. Practice and present the dialogue to your class.

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Extra Practice

Read the following expressions, and practice them with your partner.

Special Requests

- Can I have some extra napkins, please?
- May I have a straw, please?
- Can I change that small drink to a large?
- Can I get some barbecue sauce, please?
- Do you have any booster seats/high chairs?
- Can you wipe the table down?
- Does it have any nuts on it?
- Can I get that without mustard?

Complaints and Concerns

- This is not what I ordered.
- There is no toilet paper in the washroom.
- I've been waiting a long time.
- This food is cold.
- There's a hair in my food.
- This tastes off. (I think it has gone bad.)
- I asked for no cheese.
- I think you forgot the discount.

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, a customer orders food at a fast-food restaurant. The cashier asks the customer a variety of questions. Students learn vocabulary and expressions to use when ordering food at a fast-food restaurant.

LEVEL: Low-Intermediate – Intermediate

TIME: 1 hour

TAGS: restaurant, dialogues, everyday English, food, fast food

Pre-Reading

A. SPELLING QUIZ

Discuss as a class or in small groups. In the first sentence, “fast food” is being used as a compound noun. In the second sentence, it is an adjective. Check out our editor’s handy blog post about multiple-word adjectives: <http://blog.esllibrary.com/2013/01/10/when-to-use-hyphens-rules-for-multiple-word-adjectives/>

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. c | 3. a | 5. h | 7. j | 9. b |
| 2. e | 4. g | 6. i | 8. d | 10. f |

Dialogue Reading

Give your students time to read the dialogue in pairs.

Practice

Have your students read the dialogue again and practice subbing in some of the different expressions.

Listening Practice

Have students complete the dialogue by listening to two students read the completed dialogue from page 2. Choose a new group of students to read it a second time.

Write Your Own Dialogue

Encourage your students to use vocabulary from the model. You could change the type of fast food to something other than a burger restaurant. For example, challenge your students to write a dialogue that takes place in a coffee shop drive-thru. If you are teaching in an English-speaking country, you may also want to go out for fast food together. Have your students take note of the cashier’s questions.

SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the word *Practice*. Most other English-speaking countries spell it this way: *Practise* (when used as a verb; *Practice* when used as a noun). Make it a challenge for your students to find this word in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spelling.

EDITOR’S NOTE:

You may see “drive-thru” spelled as “drive-through.” Both are acceptable spellings. In some parts of the world, “fast food” or “takeout” is called “takeaway,” and this word is used as a noun or an adjective. When used as an adjective, the word “take-out” has a hyphen.