

Eating Out at Restaurants

Intermediate (B1-B2)



WARM-UP DISCUSSION

Part 1. Discuss the questions.

1. How often do you eat out?
2. Do you usually try new dishes or stick to the same thing?
3. What makes a restaurant “good” for you?
4. Do you ever check the menu before you arrive?
5. Are you quick at deciding or do you need time?

Part 2. Read the menu items and discuss the questions.

Spicy Veggie Bowl

Rice, roasted vegetables, spicy sauce, herbs

Chicken Wrap

Grilled chicken, lettuce, yoghurt dressing

Mushroom Pasta

Creamy sauce, parmesan, garlic

Classic Burger

Beef patty, cheese, salad, fries

1. What would you order and why?
2. Which dish would your best friend choose?
3. Which one would you avoid?

VOCABULARY & SPEAKING

Part 1. Read the mini-dialogues. The phrases in bold are useful for ordering.

Mia: Could I have the mushroom pasta, but without garlic?

Waiter: Of course. Do you want a side with that?

Leo: What do you recommend if I want something light?

Waitress: The veggie bowl is a popular choice.

Alina: We're still deciding. Could we have one more minute?

Waiter: No problem. I'll come back shortly.

Sam: Does this come with anything, like salad or chips?

Waitress: It comes with fries, but you can swap them for salad.

James: Could I have the chicken wrap, but can I swap the fries for a salad?

Waiter: No problem. Would you like the small or large salad?

Emma: I'd like the mushroom pasta, but can I ask if it's very creamy?

Waiter: It's quite creamy, yes. I can make it lighter if you prefer.

Part 2. Match each phrase to its function below.

Could I have...but without...?	What do you recommend...?	Could we have one more minute?
Does this come with...?	Can I swap...for...?	I'd like...but can I ask...?

1. Asking for time
2. Making an order with a small change
3. Making an order + checking something
4. Asking for a suggestion
5. Asking about sides
6. Asking to replace one item with another

Part 3. Imagine you're ordering in a restaurant. Complete the sentences using the phrases from the previous exercise.

1. Could I have the..., but without...?
2. What do you recommend if I like...?
3. Could we have one more minute? We're still...
4. Does this come with...?
5. Can I swap... for...?
6. I'd like..., but can I ask...?

Part 4. Discuss what you would say in each of the situations. Try to use the useful phrases.

Could I have...but without...?	What do you recommend...?	Could we have one more minute?
Does this come with...?	Can I swap...for...?	I'd like...but can I ask...?

- You want something vegetarian but aren't sure what to choose.
- You'd like the burger without cheese.
- You need a drink recommendation.
- You want to swap fries for a salad.
- You want a smaller portion.
- You're not sure how spicy something is.

Part 5. Choose a dish from exercise 2. Create your real order using the useful phrases.

Spicy Veggie Bowl Rice, roasted vegetables, spicy sauce, herbs	Chicken Wrap Grilled chicken, lettuce, yoghurt dressing
Mushroom Pasta Creamy sauce, parmesan, garlic	Classic Burger Beef patty, cheese, salad, fries

Part 6. Choose one option and explain your choice.

Tap water	or	Sparkling?
Sharing plates	or	Individual meals?
Trying something new	or	Ordering your favourite?
Indoor seating	or	Outdoor seating?
Booking ahead	or	Walking in?
Price	or	Portion size?
Quick lunch	or	Slow dinner?
Dessert	or	No dessert?

Part 7. Reflect on eating out in your culture using the questions below.

1. Do people ask for changes to dishes or avoid it?
2. Do people eat quickly or slowly?
3. Is sharing food common?
4. Do people chat with staff or keep things short?
5. Is tipping expected, optional or unusual?

REFLECTION

Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

- My perfect meal out starts with...
- One thing I always appreciate in a restaurant is...
- A dish I always enjoy ordering is...
- One moment eating out that I'll never forget is...