How do I order my favorite food?

Knowing how to order your favorite food in a restaurant is very important, especially when travelling to another country. If you find yourself in an American restaurant, it is most helpful to know how to place an order using English. It is also helpful to know how to ask questions about the food you want to order.

When ordering food in the U.S., it is most common to use these phrases:

May I please have…?

I would like to order…

I’ll have the…

**Example:**

*Waiter:* Excuse me. Have you decided on something?

*Customer 1:* Yes, I think so. I’ll have the Chicken Alfredo pasta.

*Waiter:* Great. How about for you?

*Customer 2:* I would like to order the mixed green salad.

When asking questions about food, it is common to use phrases like:

Does this dish have…?

How much does it cost?

Is this dish…?

**Example:**

*Waiter:* Excuse me. Have you decided on something?

*Customer:* I am not sure. Do these tacos have beef in them?

*Waiter:* Yes, they do.

*Customer:* Okay. Are the tacos spicy?

*Waiter:* No, in fact, they are not spicy at all.

EXTRA, EXTRA!

Have you ever heard someone say, “That looks delicious” or “that smells great”? When deciding what to order, people often comment on what they think of the food, and talk with their friends about what to order. Some common phrases are:

That looks… (delicious/yummy/spicy/sweet)

That sounds…

I’m not sure what to order.

What do you think I should have?

How about…?

**Example:**

*Customer 1:* Everything looks delicious, but I don’t know what to order.

*Customer 2:* I think I’ll have the steak and potatoes.

*Customer 1:* That sounds yummy. What do you think I should have?

*Customer 2:* How about you try the Chicken Noodle soup?

LET’S PRACTICE!

**Example:**

*Waiter:* What would you like to order?

*Customer 1:* I would like to have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Is it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (spicy/fresh/flavorful)?

*Waiter:* Yes/No. How about for you?

*Customer 2:* I would like to order the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. How much does it cost?

*Waiter:* It costs \_\_\_\_\_ dollars.

\*\*[*Customer 3:* I would like to try \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Can I add \_\_\_\_\_\_\_? (cheese/tomato/onion)]\*\*

*Waiter:* \*\*[Yes, of course]\*\* Will that be all?

*Customer 3:* Yes.

*Waiter:* I will have your food out shortly.

\*\*these lines are optional!\*\*