

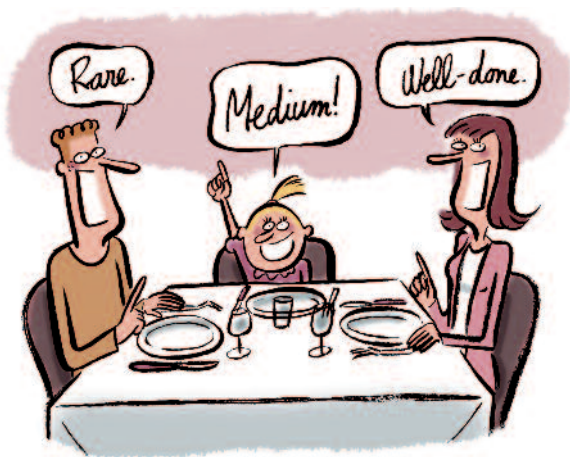
Vocabulaire Walk & Talk

Situations pratiques
Dialogues-clés
Expressions utiles

Coffret audio (CD + Livret)

L'anglais en voyage

Part 7. A restaurant meal



Arriving at the restaurant

Rob Bass arrives at a restaurant for dinner. Listen to his conversation with the hostess.

Hostess: Good evening, sir. Have you booked?

Rob Bass: Yes, I reserved a table for six for this evening.

Hostess: Under what name?

Rob Bass: Bass.

Hostess: Oh yes, Mr Bass. A table for six for 8.30. Shall I show you to your table or would you like to wait for your friends to arrive?

Rob Bass: I'd like to wait for my friends, please.

Hostess: If you'd like to have a drink in the bar, I'll let your friends know where you are when they arrive...



In American restaurants, the 'entrée' is the main course and your starter may be called an 'appetizer'.

➔ Now practise it!

Listen to the following conversation again. This time fill in Rob Bass's responses yourself. Remember that he reserved a table for six for this evening, that it was booked under the name of Bass and that he'd like to wait for his friends.

Discussing the menu

Peter Jefferies has invited American business colleague Andy Smith to dinner. Listen to their conversation as they discuss the menu.



Peter Jefferies: I hope you like this restaurant, Andy. It's very popular.

Andy Smith: The menu looks good. What do you recommend?

Peter Jefferies: Well, I've only been here once before, but the steak was excellent.

Andy Smith: Are you going to have an appetizer?

Peter Jefferies: Yes, I think so. The starters here aren't too large, so we should be able to manage dessert as well!

Andy Smith: Good. Dessert is my favorite.

Peter Jefferies: Well, the desserts are always good here, but I think their main courses are even better. Shall we have some wine while we're waiting?



In the US, coffee is served with your dessert. Desserts are often eaten with a fork. Portion sizes are often quite large, so you can order a dessert 'with two forks' to share.

Ordering

The server comes to their table. Listen to the conversation.



Server: Are you ready to order, gentlemen? Would you like a starter?

Peter Jefferies: I'll have the paté to start with, please.

Server: And for you, sir?

Andy Smith: I can't decide. What do you recommend?

Server: The smoked salmon is very good, sir.

Andy Smith: Okay, I'll have the smoked salmon, followed by the steak.

Server: How would you like your steak, sir? Rare, medium or well-done?

Andy Smith: Medium, please.

Server: And for your main course, sir?

Peter Jefferies: I'll have the steak, too. Well-done...

➔ Now practise it!

Peter Jefferies ordered his meal by saying:

– I'll have the paté to start with.

He could also have said:

– I'll take the melon, please.

– I'd like the steak, please.

– I'm going to have the chicken, please.



Making small talk during the meal

Peter Jefferies and Andy Smith make small talk at the table. Listen to the conversation.



Peter Jefferies: Are you enjoying your smoked salmon?

Andy Smith: It's really good. How about your paté?

Peter Jefferies: Very good. I do like paté. It's one of my favourites.

Andy Smith: Let's hope the steak is just as good.

Peter Jefferies: Well, it was last time I came and they do have a really good chef.

Andy Smith: This wine is superb. What is it?

Peter Jefferies: It's a Bordeaux. It should go really well with the steak.

Andy Smith: I think you're right.

Peter Jefferies: Have you decided on a dessert yet?

Andy Smith: Not yet. I'll probably have to look at the menu again!

Good to know

When drinking wine in the UK or the US, clink your glasses together and say 'cheers'.

→ Now practise it!

When making small talk at the table, Peter Jefferies could have asked:

- Are you enjoying your meal?
- Do you like this wine?
- The chef here is good, isn't he?
- What is your favourite dessert?

To which Andy Smith could reply:

- Yes, my meal is really nice.
- This wine is excellent.
- Yes, he is a good chef.
- My favorite dessert is apple pie.

Paying the bill

James McEvoy has just had a meal at a restaurant in London. Listen to the following conversation as James pays the bill.



Server: Would you like more coffee?

James McEvoy: No, thank you. Could I have the bill, please?

Server: Certainly sir. I'll just go and get it for you... Here you are, sir.

James McEvoy: Thank you. Is service included?

Server: No, sir, it isn't.

James McEvoy: Can I ask what this item on the bill is?

Server: That's for the two gin and tonics you had before your meal.

James McEvoy: Of course. I'll pay in cash and please keep the change.

Server: Thank you, sir. I hope you enjoyed your meal.

→ Now practise it!

Practise paying at a restaurant by repeating the following phrases:

- Could I have the bill, please?
- Is service included?
- Can I ask what this item on the bill is?
- I'll pay in cash.
- Please keep the change.



If service is not included in your bill, it is customary to give a tip of about 10% in the UK and 20% in the US.

Useful words and phrases

- | | |
|--|--|
| - I booked a table for six. | - <i>J'ai réservé une table pour six.</i> |
| - I booked under the name of Bass. | - <i>J'ai réservé au nom de Bass.</i> |
| - I'd like to wait for my friends, please. | - <i>J'aimerais attendre mes amis, s'il vous plaît.</i> |
| - What do you recommend? | - <i>Que me suggérez-vous ?</i> |
| - I'm ready to order. | - <i>Je suis prêt(e) à passer commande.</i> |
| - I'm going to have the chicken, please. | - <i>Je prendrai le poulet, s'il vous plaît.</i> |
| - Starter / Appetizer (US) | - <i>Entrée</i> |
| - Main course / Entrée (US) | - <i>Plat principal</i> |
| - Rare | - <i>Saignant</i> |
| - Medium | - <i>À point</i> |
| - Well-done | - <i>Bien cuit</i> |
| - Are you enjoying your meal? | - <i>Votre repas vous plaît-il ?</i> |
| - My favorite dessert is apple pie. | - <i>Mon dessert préféré, c'est la tarte aux pommes.</i> |
| - Could I have the bill, please? | - <i>Pourrais-je avoir l'addition, s'il vous plaît ?</i> |
| - Is service included? | - <i>Le service est-il compris ?</i> |
| - Please keep the change. | - <i>Gardez la monnaie.</i> |