

In this edition:
going to a
restaurant

Lesson 17

Notes

La carte, s'il vous plaît

Ordering food in a restaurant

Programme Notes

Welcome to Coffee Break French, the podcast aimed at independent learners of French. Our regular podcasts will introduce you to the French language in easy steps. These programme notes will help you get more out of each episode by explaining how words are written and giving you more information about each phrase along with some bonus vocabulary where appropriate.

If you have specific questions about the contents of each lesson, why not email us at cbf@radiolingua.com or phone our helpline on 0141 416 2600 (UK) or 408 540 6114 (US), or you can skype *radiolingua*. By recording your question on our voicemail line you may feature on our forthcoming phone-in show, *French Expresso*.

Language Notes

manger	to eat	
je mange ...	I eat ... / I am eating ...	
je mange un sandwich	I'm eating a sandwich	
prendre	to take	When ordering food <i>prendre</i> has the meaning of "to have / to order"
je prends un sandwich	I'll have a sandwich	
c'est pour combien de personnes?	for how many (people)?	On arriving at a restaurant you are likely to be asked this by a waiter
c'est pour quatre (personnes)	it's for four (people)	ie. four of us would like to have something to eat
c'est pour huit	it's for eight	
fumeur ou non-fumeur	smoking or non-smoking	Note that in France since January 2008 there is a no-smoking law in place which means that it is not possible to smoke in French restaurants and bars
suivez-moi, s'il vous plaît	follow me, please	
je suis désolé(e)	I'm sorry	
nous sommes complets	we're full	
on est complet	we're full	An alternative to <i>nous sommes complets</i>
voulez-vous attendre?	do you want to wait?	
la carte	menu	

Language Notes

la carte, s'il vous plaît	(Can we have...) the menu, please	
un menu	set menu	Used in specific cases: see below
un menu enfant	children's menu	
le menu du jour	"today's specials"	
vous avez une carte en anglais?	do you have a menu in English?	
vous avez un menu enfant?	do you have a children's menu?	
une chaise haute	high chair, baby chair	
une chaise pour bébé	high chair, baby chair	
un poulet frites	roast chicken and chips	
un stea(c)k frites	steak and chips	The word for "steak" can be written <i>steack</i> or <i>steak</i>
quelle cuisson?	how would you like it cooked?	
saignant	rare	literally, "bleeding"!
à point	medium	
bien cuit	well done	
une omelette	omelette	
une tarte flambée	speciality of Strasbourg in Alsace, similar to pizza with cream cheese instead of tomato	
des oignons	onions	
des lardons	small chunks of bacon, pancetta	
je voudrais ça / cela	I'd like that	Pointing to what someone else is eating!

Additional vocabulary

réserver	to reserve	
je voudrais réserver une table	I'd like to reserve a table	
j'ai réservé une table	I've booked a table	
je n'ai pas réservé	I've not booked	
est-ce qu'il faut attendre?	is there a wait?	
combien de temps est-ce qu'il faut attendre?	how long do we have to wait?	
quel est le plat du jour?	what's today's special?	
avez-vous choisi?	have you chosen? / are you ready to order?	
nous sommes prêts pour commander	we are ready to order	
qu'est-ce que vous conseillez?	what do you recommend?	