

Lesson 10: Ordering Drinks, Coffee, and Pizza

I hope you're still hungry, because today you're going to learn how to order drinks at a bar, order coffee at a cafe, and order pizza for delivery.

Conversation #1 – Ordering a Drink

*The person who works at the bar serving drinks is called the **bartender**. (This word can be used for a man or a woman). Here's a conversation you might have with him:*

Bartender: Hi there. What can I get for ya?

Christine: What do you have on tap?

Bartender: Guinness, Heineken, Corona and Sam Adams

Christine: Hmm... on second thought, I'd like something a little stronger. Do you have any drink specials?

Bartender: It's happy hour, so all our cocktails are half-price.

Christine: All right, I'll have a strawberry daiquiri.

Bartender: Coming right up! Do you wanna start a tab?

Christine: No, that's OK. How much do I owe ya?

Bartender: \$4.25.

(she gives him \$5)

Bartender: Here's your change.



Christine: That's OK.

Conversation Vocabulary & Phases

In informal spoken English, especially in questions, the word "you" is often pronounced "ya." That's why the bartender says, "What can I get for ya?"

The question "**What do you have on tap?**" is asking about the types of beer that the bar has available. Beer that is "on tap" is served from a barrel and faucet (like in the picture), not in a can or bottle.

There are four basic types of drinks you can get in a bar:

1. Beer. There are many different types of beer, including light beer, dark beer, imported beer, and non-alcoholic beer. The two main types of beer are **ale** (which has a stronger, more flavorful taste) and **lager** (with a cleaner, smoother taste).

- "I'll have a Budweiser."
- "Can I get a pint of Sam Adams?"
- "Three Coronas, please."

2. Wine. Wine comes in two major colors – **red wine** and **white wine** – and each color can come in two different tastes – **sweet wine** and **dry wine** (dry wine is not very sweet). Many bars and restaurants have a **house wine**, which is the wine they serve most frequently.

- "I'll have a glass of the house wine."
- "Can we get a bottle of white wine?"
- "Two glasses of red wine, please."

3. Cocktails & Mixed drinks – These drinks are alcohol mixed with other liquids like fruit juice or soda.

- "I'll have a Rum & Coke."
- "Can I get a margarita?"
- "One screwdriver and one Bloody Mary, please."

4. Shots. Shots are small portions of strong alcohol drunk pure, without mixing it with juice or any other ingredients.

- **“I’ll have a shot of whiskey.”**
- **“Can we get a round of tequila shots?”**
- **“Two shots of vodka, please.”**

You can also order strong alcoholic drinks like whiskey either **“on the rocks”** (which means with ice) or **“straight up”** (without ice).

“Happy hour” is a time (usually just after work, like from 5-7 PM) when many bars offer drinks at a reduced price.

When the bartender asks **“Do you wanna start a tab?”** he wants to know if you will pay later. A **“tab”** means that you will have many drinks and only pay at the end, before you leave. Also, in spoken English, the words “want to” are often pronounced “wanna.”

In the United States, as in restaurants, you need to leave a tip for the bartender. At the end of the conversation, the phrase “That’s OK” means the bartender can keep the extra money.

If you are drinking with friends, you can tell the bartender, **“Can we get another round?”** – a “round” means everyone will have another of the same drink they just finished.

If you want to pay for a drink for your friend, you can say: **“It’s on me”** or **“This one’s on me.”** If you want to meet someone (especially if you are a man and you want to start a conversation with a woman) you can say, **“Can I buy you a drink?”**

Have fun at the bar, but make sure you have a **designated driver** – a person who isn’t drinking any alcohol, who will be **sober** (not drunk) in order to drive everyone home.

Ordering Coffee

Here are four ways to ask for coffee:

- “Can I get... ?”
- “Could I have... ?”
- “I’d like...”
- “I’ll have...”

There’s not much difference between these four phrases – you can use any of them.

Now, here are some different ways to have your coffee. You can have...

- **iced coffee** (cold coffee with ice)
- **black coffee** (no milk)
- **coffee with milk**
- **coffee with soy milk** (non-dairy alternative to milk)
- **small, medium, or large**
- **regular coffee** (with caffeine)
- **decaf coffee** (without caffeine)
- **with whipped cream**



There are also many different types of coffee. Here are some of the most common:

- **espresso** – very small, very strong coffee
- **latte** – hot milk + espresso
- **cappuccino** – hot milk + espresso + foam



- **macchiato** – espresso + a little bit of milk
- **mocha** – hot milk + espresso + chocolate (“white mocha” is made with white chocolate)
- **americano** – espresso + water

We also have different types of milk:

- **Whole milk** – Milk with the most fat
- **Half and half** – A mixture of 50% milk, 50% cream
- **2% milk** – Milk with 2% fat
- **1% milk** – Milk with 1% fat
- **Skim milk** or **non-fat milk** – Milk with 0% fat

Finally, if you like your coffee to be sweet, you can choose between **sugar** and **sweetener** (sweetener is artificial sugar, with fewer calories).

So to combine all these elements into a phrase, you might make your order like this:

- “Can I get a **medium black decaf coffee**?”
 - “Could I have a **large iced coffee with soy milk**?”
 - “I’ll have a **large mocha with whipped cream**.”
 - “I’d like a **small latte**.”
 - “Can I get a **medium cappuccino**?”
- etc.

Finally, the server may ask you, “**For here or to go**?” – they want to know if you will stay in the café to eat and drink (“for here”), or if you will take your food/drink and leave (“to go”).

Conversation #2 – Ordering a pizza

Restaurant: Armando's Pizza. Can I take your order?

Laura: I'd like a large pizza for delivery.

Restaurant: Any toppings?

Laura: What do you have?

Restaurant: Pepperoni, mushrooms, onions, peppers, sausage, olives, bacon, tomatoes, anchovies, and extra cheese.

Laura: Okay, I'll have mushrooms and peppers, please.

Restaurant: Actually, if you order two toppings, the third one is free.

Laura: Oh! All right, could you put mushrooms and peppers on one half, and extra cheese on the other?

Restaurant: Yup. Anything to drink?

Laura: Two cans of Sprite.

Restaurant: You might as well get a bottle – it's actually less expensive than two cans.

Laura: Ah, sure, why not?

Restaurant: OK, your total is \$23.80. Could I have your name, address, and phone number?

Laura: Laura Jones, 1587 Market Street, Apartment 701 and my phone number is 555-1299.

Restaurant: Thanks – your order will be delivered in about 30 minutes.



Conversation Vocabulary & Phrases

- Pizzas usually come in three sizes: **small**, **medium**, and **large**
- The ingredients like meat and vegetables that you put on top of a pizza are called **toppings**. In most pizza places, the basic pizza is one price and each topping costs extra to add.
- You can also ask for **half** (50%) of the pizza to have one topping, and the other half to have a different topping.
- The expression **Why not?** means “Yes” or “OK” or “I have no objections.”
- With most deliveries, you have two payment options: you can pay by credit card over the phone, or you can pay in cash, which you give to the person who delivers the pizza.
- You should also give a tip of 15% to the person who delivers the pizza. Why is it necessary to give so many tips in the United States to servers, bartenders, and delivery people? Well, most of these jobs pay extremely low salaries – often less than minimum wage – so the workers depend on receiving these tips to survive and get a decent salary.

You’ve finished Lesson 10 of the Everyday English Speaking Course! Today’s speaking challenge is to [call me and leave a message](#) ordering three things:

- order a drink
- order coffee
- order a pizza

Tomorrow, we’re going to switch gears – that means “change topics” – and talk about going to the post office and the bank.