Eating out

ANNA HOCHSIEDER presents some useful language to help you enjoy your meal in an English-speaking country.

Arriving

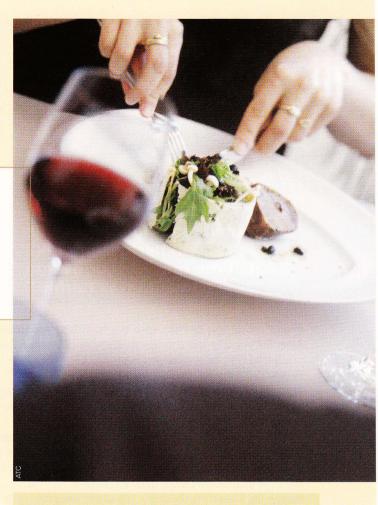
- Hello! A table for two, please.
- Yes, sir, if you'd like to follow me. Over there, by the window: is that all right?
- Great, thanks.
- And here's the <u>menu</u> for you. Our special today is duck with orange sauce.

Ordering

- Are you ready to order, sir, madam?
- Yes, we'd both like the duck, please.
- Fine. And would you like a starter?
- Yes, I'll have the spinach salad, please.
- And I'll have the tomato soup, please.
- Right. And to drink?
- Two glasses of the house red. Oh, and some mineral water, please.
- Sparkling or still?

Complaining

- Is everything to your liking?
- Well, actually, I think the wine's corked, I'm afraid.
- Oh, I'm sorry about that. I'll bring you some from another bottle.
- Thank you. And could we have some more bread, please?
- Certainly. Coming up.



Paving

- Could I have the bill, please?
- Yes, sir. Just a moment. ... Here you are, sir.
- Thank you. I'll pay by credit card if that's OK.
- Certainly. Did you enjoy your meal?
- Yes, it was excellent. Thanks.

bill (US check) [bil]	Rechnung
corked [kɔːkt]	korkig
menu ['menjuː]	Speisekarte
sparkling ['spa:klin]	mit Kohlensäure
spinach ['spinid3]	Spinat

Tips

- In restaurants in the English-speaking world, don't just walk in and sit down. Wait to be seated.
- Guests in restaurants are often addressed with sir or madam as a sign of respect.
- The **first course** of a meal is usually called a **starter** in Britain and an **appetizer** in the US. The **main course** is also known as the **entrée** ['pntrer], especially in the US. This can come with a **side order** (*Beilage*) such as vegetables. British English speakers often say **sweet** or **pudding** instead of **dessert** [dr'z3rt].
- When ordering, say I would like or I'll have, not Hake.
- To complain (sich beschweren) politely, use "softening" expressions like I think, actually or I'm afraid. This makes your complaint sound less confrontational.
- Credit cards are widely used in English-speaking countries, but you can also pay in cash. Don't give your tip (*Trinkgeld*) to the waiter directly, but leave it on the table (about 10 to 15 per cent in the UK and 15 to 20 per cent in the US).