

Eating out

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

easy  plus

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 menu 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.

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** ['ɒntreɪ], 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** [dɪ'zɜ:t].
- When ordering, say **I would like** or **I'll have**, not **I take**.
- 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).



Paying

- 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) [bɪl]	Rechnung
corked [kɔ:kt]	korkig
menu ['menju:]	Speisekarte
sparkling ['spɑ:klɪŋ]	mit Kohlensäure
spinach ['spɪnɪdʒ]	Spinat