

M A S T E R
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En el restaurante

student information sheet

Dining in Hispanic countries, even in the most humble restaurant, is a special experience. Waiters, who are usually men and always elegantly dressed, pride themselves on their service, cordiality, and courtesy. The following will guide you through the steps of ordering a meal in a restaurant.

1. On entering a restaurant, greetings are essential:
 - Buenos días. (el desayuno)*
 - Buenas tardes. (el almuerzo o la comida)*
 - Buenas noches. (la cena)*
2. The host will ask how many are in your party (*¿Cuántos son ustedes?*), and you respond:
 - Somos _____ (*dos, tres, cuatro*). or *Estoy sólo/a.*
 - The host will then ask you to accompany him/her to a table: *Pase(n) por favor.*
3. The waiter will approach your table and, after greeting you, ask for your order:
 - ¿Qué desea la señorita (el señor)?* *¿Qué desean los señores (las señoritas)?*
4. You will order what you want from the menu:
 - Quisiera _____.* or *Voy a tomar _____.*
 - Or, to ask for something not on the menu: *¿Hay _____?*
5. The waiter will take your menu and respond with some courtesy such as:
 - Para servirle.*
 - A sus órdenes.*
 - En seguida.*
6. When the waiter brings your meal, s/he will often wish you "heartly appetite":
 - Buen provecho.*
7. If you need something, such a fork, a glass, or a spoon, you may ask the waiter:
 - ¿Me puede traer _____, por favor?* or *¿Me trae _____, por favor?*
8. The waiter may stop by your table to make sure everything is alright. It is polite, at this point, to praise the meal:
 - Está muy bueno.*
 - Está muy rico.*
 - Está delicioso (sabroso, exquisito).*
9. When you have finished your meal, the waiter will ask if you would like dessert:
 - ¿Algo de postre?*
10. Before leaving, you will ask for the bill:
 - ¿Me trae la cuenta, por favor?*
11. It is customary to leave the waiter a tip (*dejar una propina*) of about 15% of your total bill.
12. Always say thank you and good-bye to the waiter and host as you leave the restaurant.