

At the bar

A pub (public house) is a building in Britain or Ireland where you can buy alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, which specialises in beer and often serves food too. Pubs are more informal than other types of bars. Sometimes they have pool rooms or jukeboxes, or host special nights for quizzes or live gigs. They are often open in the day and are always open at night.

A lounge bar, also called a saloon bar, is a public room in a hotel or restaurant where you can buy alcoholic drinks. It is generally more luxurious than other bars and drinks are usually more expensive. Lounge bars tend to stay open later than pubs, but not as late as nightclubs.

A cocktail bar specialises in cocktails, drinks which combine different spirits and fruit juices or cream. These bars are usually open at the same times as pubs, but are more sophisticated and expensive, and often have a cheap happy hour at about the time people finish work in the evening.

Wine bars specialise in selling different types of wine, although you can often order a meal at the same time. They are usually more sophisticated and more expensive than pubs and they are always open at night and sometimes during the day.

There are also **nightclubs**, where you go to dance, drink alcohol and watch entertainment like live music, so the atmosphere is exciting. Drinks are usually very expensive, but the bar stays open until much later than in pubs or wine bars.

A coffee bar, on the other hand, is a small restaurant that serves coffees and other non-alcoholic drinks and light refreshments such as sandwiches and cakes. They are usually only open during the day. The atmosphere is friendly and they are not very expensive.

A snack bar is a kind of informal, inexpensive restaurant where you can buy non-alcoholic drinks and eat small meals such as sandwiches or snacks. They are usually only open during the daytime.

Read the texts again and complete this table. Put Y for Yes, N for no and a DS for Doesn't say.

Type of bar	Alcohol	Food	Night	Day	Expensive	Atmosphere	Speciality	Other characteristics
pub	Y	Y	Y	Y	DS	informal	beer	pool rooms, ...
cocktail								
coffee								
lounge								

wine							
snack							
nightclub							

Find words and expressions that correspond to these definitions in the texts.

1 a place where people play a game in which you hit balls into holes at the edge of a table	
2 a machine that plays music when you put money into it	
3 a competition in which you answer questions	
4 a strong alcoholic drink such as whisky or brandy	
5 a short period of time when drinks in a bar cost less than usual, usually in early evening	
6 things to eat or drink	
7 a place open at night until early morning with a bar, disco and deejay	
8 music or other public performances which you see as they happen	

Discuss the different types of bar in the texts. Which do you prefer and why?