

Taking Reservations by Telephone



Fred, the head-waiter, answered the telephone at Chez Max. He greeted the caller...



...and identified the restaurant and himself.



He offered to assist the caller.



The caller wished to make a dinner reservation. Fred got out the reservation notepad.



He asked her for the date of the reservation...



...and wrote down the details as she spoke.



He found out the time of the reservation.



Fred asked the caller for her name. She spelt it out for him.



Fred asked Ms Reid for the number of people in her party.



The caller had a special request - a window table.



Fred checked the floor chart.



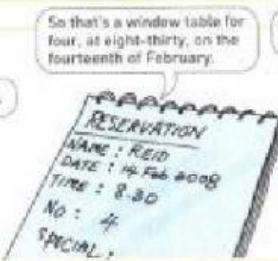
He apologized because the non-smoking section was booked out that night.



He offered her an alternative, and asked for her agreement.



Ms Reid accepted the offer.



Fred read back to Ms Reid all the details he had written on the reservation notepad.



He asked Ms Reid for a contact number and wrote it down on the notepad.



Before ending the conversation, Fred thanked the caller...

...and said goodbye.

Finally Fred copied all the information on the notepad into the restaurant reservation record.

Addressing Guests

Whenever possible use:
SIR/MADAM
or
MR/MRS/MS/TITLE
+ name
when you speak to guests.

Speaking about TIME

	At eight o'clock
	At a quarter past eight
	At eight thirty
	At a quarter to eight
	At eight fifteen
	At half past eight
	At seven forty-five

Speaking about DATES

Written: 1 Jan 1/1 1.1.2008
Spoken: <i>January first</i>
<i>The first of January</i>
Written: 31 Dec 31/12 12.31.2008
Spoken: <i>December thirty-first</i>
<i>The thirty-first of December</i>
Written: 14 Feb 14/2 2.14.2008
Spoken: <i>February fourteenth</i>
<i>The fourteenth of February</i>

Key Vocabulary

VERBS	NOUNS
accept	agreement
address	alternative
answer	caller
apologize	contact number
ask [for]	date
assist	details
care for	floor chart
[something]	head-waiter
check	information
copy	notepad
end	number
find [out]	party
get out	record
[something]	request
greet	reservation
identify	section
make	title
[a reservation]	window
offer	waiter
reserve	
spell	booked out
take	instead
[a reservation]	non-smoking
write	smoking
	special

For Special Attention

- *make a reservation* = the caller makes a reservation.
- *take a reservation* = the waiter takes a reservation
- A *floor chart* is a plan showing all the tables and parts of the restaurant.
- *details* = small items of information
- A *reservation record* is a book that contains all the details of reservations.
- *a booking* = a reservation
- *booked out/fully booked* = the restaurant is full and can't take any more reservations
- *a special request* = the caller asks for something more, e.g. a window table, or a birthday cake etc.
- *identify yourself* = say who you are
- *a party* = a group
- *offered her an alternative* = gave her another choice or possibility

NB: Some women prefer to use the title **MS**, instead of **MRS** or **MISS**.

More Expressions

Picture

- 3 "How can I help you, sir?"
- 5 "For which day?"
- 7 "What time is the reservation for?"
"At what time?"
- 8 "Could I have your name, please?"
"Under what name?"
- 9 "For how many people?"
- 11 "I'll check if we have a table."
- 16 "Could you give me a contact number, please?"
- 18 "We look forward to seeing you on the fourteenth."



UNIT 1 Exercises

1. Choose a word from the box to match each picture below.



notepad

floor chart

caller

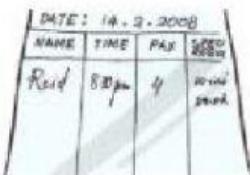
date

window table

reservation record

waiter

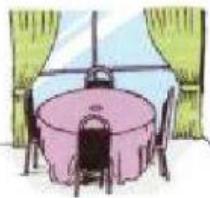
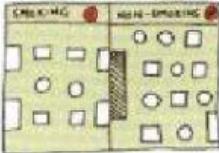
non-smoking sign



MONDAY
7th APRIL 2008



waiter



2. Fred asked the caller for the details of the reservation. What information did Fred ask for?

date of reservation

3. Match the words in column A with their meanings in column B.

A

B

1. assist		e		a. give your name
2. reserve				b. no more seats/tables
3. a group				c. say sorry
4. a request				d. say yes to an offer
5. fully booked				e. help
6. apologize				f. book
7. accept				g. a party
8. identify yourself				h. something a person asks for

4. Write out some ways of *saying* the time shown on the clocks below.



seven fifteen

or

a quarter past seven

5. Write down a *spoken* form of these dates.

April 5

the fifth of April

23 May

12th Dec

2.6.2008

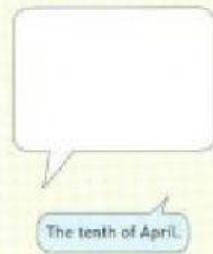
31/12

6. Match the terms on the left with the statements on the right.

1. Identifying yourself	[]	a. "a round table near the door"
2. Greeting	[]	b. "I'm afraid we're fully booked tonight."
3. A special request	[]	c. "Jenny speaking."
4. Apologizing	[]	d. "Good afternoon, sir."
5. Spelling out something	[]	e. "Can I help you, madam?"
6. Making a reservation	[]	f. "I'll check the floor chart for you."
7. Assisting a caller	[]	g. "That's H-U-D-S-O-N."
8. Offering to do something for someone	[]	h. "I'd like to book a table for dinner, please."

7. What is the head-waiter saying to the callers below? Fill in the speech bubbles.

1.



The tenth of April.

2.



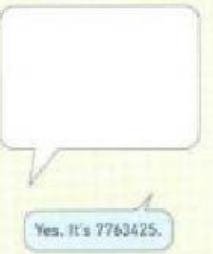
Could I have a window table please?

3.



At one o'clock

4.



Yes, it's 7763425.

8. Discuss the following questions with your trainer or partner.

1. Why do some women prefer to use the title MS instead of MISS or MRS?
2. Why did Fred ask the caller for a contact number?
3. Why does Fred write down details on a notepad while he talks to the caller?