

2C How to ... order a meal in a restaurant

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We use *can*, *could* and *would like*/*'d like* to make requests in a restaurant.

Can I	have	a glass of water,	please?
Could we		some peas,	
I'd	like	some vegetable soup,	please.
I would			

Can and *could* are both polite, but *could* is a little more polite.

We use *some* to make a request with plural and uncountable nouns. Don't use *any*.

Can I have **some potatoes**, please?

Could we have **some water**, please?

We can use *the* to order something on the menu.

I'd like **the chocolate ice cream**, please.

Can I have **the salmon**, please?

To reply to requests, *yes* or *no* are not very polite. We usually answer with a phrase.

positive	negative
Yes, of course.	I'm sorry, we don't have any soup left.
Yes, certainly.	
Sure, no problem.*	I'm afraid we close at ten.

* This is informal.

PRACTICE

1 Choose the correct word(s) to complete the sentences.

- Can we have **some** / **any** bread, please?
- I'd **like** / **I like** the lamb curry, please.
- I **could** / **Could** I have some sparkling mineral water, please?
- Sure, **not** / **no** problem.
- Can we have **bill**, / **the bill**, please?
- I'm sorry, we don't have **some** / **any** chicken left.
- Could I have a **bottle** / **bottle** of water, please?
- I **afraid** / **I'm afraid** we don't have any green tea.

2 Correct the conversation. Add the words in the box. You do not need one of the words.

any Could d Do have like please something thank you want water

- Waiter: Are you ready to order?
Customer: Yes, can I ~~have~~ some tomato soup, please?
Waiter: you want any bread rolls with that?
Customer: Yes, please. And for the main course I' like the steak.
Waiter: What vegetables would you?
Customer: I have some potatoes and green peas?
Waiter: Would you like side dishes?
Customer: No.
Waiter: And would you like to drink?
Customer: Some mineral, please.
Waiter: Certainly. Do you a big bottle of mineral water?
Customer: Yes..

3 Use the prompts to make conversations.

- A: Ready / order?
Are you ready to order?
B: Yes. / starter / have / vegetable soup?
A: What / you / like / main course?
B: Could / the Malaysian noodles?
A: like / side dishes?
B: No / thank.
A: What / like / to drink?
B: like / sparkling / mineral / please.
- A: How / meal?
B: is / very good / thanks.
A: like / look / dessert menu?
B: please. Could / yoghurt?
A: want / anything / drink?
B: A green tea, please. / have / bill?
A: Yes / course.

