Guests and hosts in restaurants key words and card games

Listen to your teacher saying some typical restaurant language used between you and a foreign guest when you take them out for dinner. Without looking at the list below for now, decide if each line is said by a guest or a host and raise the right one of the two cards which you have been given.

Label each section below with G for guest or H for host. The ones in each section are the same, so you don’t need to label each individual line.

Check your answers as a class.

Play the same raising cards game in pairs or small groups.

Ask about any phrases you don’t understand above.

Cards for students to hold up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host</th>
<th>Guest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Host</td>
<td>Guest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Host</td>
<td>Guest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Host</td>
<td>Guest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Written by Alex Case for UsingEnglish.com © 2015
Are you allergic to anything?
Do you like spicy/sweet/sour/bitter/raw/Asian food? What kind of food do you like?

Are you ready for dessert?
Would you like to see the dessert menu?

Can we order this one?
Would be okay to choose this one?

Do people eat this kind of food all the time? Do people cook this kind of thing at home?
Do you know how to make this one?

Do people generally order together?
Should we order different things each?

How about trying this main course?
I’d recommend this starter.

How do I eat this one?
Am I eating this one the right way?

How’s your steak?
Is it what you expected?

Actually, I have to go out for dinner tonight too, so I’d better not.
If you don’t mind, I’d prefer something a bit less filling/spicy/exotic/adventurous.

I think I’d like to try this one.
This one looks/sounds nice.

I think you’d like/enjoy this side dish. If you like that, then you’d love…
You really should/really must try this dessert.

I’ll definitely come back here again.
I’ll recommend this place to my colleagues.

I’ll have to see if I can find the same thing back home.
You must email me the recipe for this so I can try and cook it at home.

I’m afraid I don’t drink/eat pork/eat shellfish/eat beef/eat meat/eat seafood.
I might stick to soft drinks, actually.

Is anything on the menu vegetarian? Is this dish vegetarian, do you know?
Is there anything which isn’t too spicy?

Is there anything you can’t eat?
Is there anything you don’t eat?
Is this popular in your **country**, do you know? Is this available back **home**, do you think?

It all sounds/ looks so nice. I'll **let** you decide./ I'll let you order (for both of us). I'll have **whatever** you're having.

It goes well **with** this sauce./ We usually eat it **with** vegetables. We usually **share** dishes, if that is okay.

It's on **me**. (No, no, I insist). You are my **guest** today.

Please **help** yourself. Please go **ahead**.

Shall we get a **starter**? What would you like for a **main** course?

Thank you very much for your **hospitality**. I'll do the same for you some time. You are too **kind**! You must let me take you out in return.

Thanks, that was **delicious**. Thanks a lot, that was **lovely**.

That’s very kind, but I **couldn’t** eat another thing. I would, but I’m afraid I’m absolutely **stuffed**.

This looks interesting. Do you **know** what it is? What’s **in** this one, do you know?/ What’s it **made** from?

This looks like a nice **place**. Do you come here often? The décor is great. Is this **typical** for this kind of place?

What does this one **taste** like? Do you think I’d **like** this one?

What was this one **called** again? Do you know where the bathroom/ restroom/ powder room is?

What would you like to **drink**? Would you like to **try** this local speciality?

Would you like **another** drink?/ Shall I order **another** dish? Would you like anything **else** to drink/ eat?

Would you **recommend** the fish?/ What would you **recommend** as a main dish? Have you **tried** this one before?
Guests and hosts in restaurants key words and card games

Brainstorming stage

Without looking above for now, try to remember or think of at least two sentences for each of these categories. Phrases which aren’t above are also fine, as long as they have the same functions as are written below.

Host
Offering

Asking for information about the guest

Recommending/ Suggesting

Chatting about the food and restaurant/ Just making conversation

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Guest
Asking for information about the food

Requesting

Refusing/ Turning down an offer

Chatting about the food and restaurant/ Just making conversation

Complimenting/ Thanking
Key words
Use the key words above to help with task above. Please write any other phrases you can think of above, not next to the key words below.

Host
Offering
● starter
● main
● drink
● try
● help
● ahead
● another
● else
● ready
● see
● me
● guest

Asking for information about the guest
● allergic
● like
● can't
● don’t

Recommending/ Suggesting
● trying
● recommend
● you’d
● really
● with
● share

Chatting about the food and restaurant/ Just making conversation
● how
● expected
● country
● home

Guest
Asking for information about the food
● recommend
● tried
● know
● in
● made
● taste
● like
● vegetarian
● too
● together
● each
● how
● way
● called
● room

Requesting
● can
● okay
● try
● nice
● let
● whatever

Refusing/ Turning down an offer
● go out
● prefer
● don’t
● soft
● couldn’t
● stuffed

Chatting about the food and restaurant/ Just making conversation
● place
● typical
● kind
● make

Complimenting/ Thanking
● delicious
● lovely
● hospitality
● kind
● find
● recipe
● again
● colleagues
Suggested answers

Note that other answers are possible, including with the same key words.

Host

Offering
- Shall we get a starter?
- What would you like for a main course?
- What would you like to drink?
- Would you like to try this local speciality?
- Please help yourself.
- Please go ahead.
- Would you like another drink?/ Shall I order another dish?
- Would you like anything else to drink/ eat?
- Are you ready for dessert?
- Would you like to see the dessert menu?
- It’s on me.
- (No, no, I insist). You are my guest today.

Asking for information about the guest
- Are you allergic to anything?
- Do you like spicy/ sweet/ sour/ bitter/raw/ Asian food?/ What kind of food do you like?
- Is there anything you can’t eat?
- Is there anything you don’t eat?

Recommending/ Suggesting
- How about trying this main course?
- I’d recommend this starter.
- I think you’d like/ enjoy this side dish./ If you like that, then you’d love…
- You really should/ really must try this dessert.
- It goes well with this sauce./ We usually eat it with vegetables.
- We usually share dishes, if that is okay.

Chatting about the food and restaurant/ Just making conversation
- How’s your steak?
- Is it what you expected?
- Is this popular in your country, do you know?
- Is this available back home, do you think?

Guest

Asking for information about the food
- Would you recommend the fish?/ What would you recommend as a main dish?
- Have you tried this one before?
- This looks interesting. Do you know what it is?
- What’s in this one, do you know?/ What’s it made from?
- What does this one taste like?
Do you think I'd like this one?
Is anything on the menu vegetarian? Is this dish vegetarian, do you know?
Is there anything which isn’t too spicy?
Do people generally order together?
Should we order different things each?
How do I eat this one?
Am I eating this one the right way?
What was this one called again?
Do you know where the bathroom/ restroom/ powder room is?

Requesting
- Can we order this one?
- Would be okay to choose this one?
- I think I’d like to try this one.
- This one looks/ sounds nice.
- It all sounds/ looks so nice. I’ll let you decide./ I’ll let you order (for both of us).
- I’ll have whatever you’re having.

Refusing/ Turning down an offer
- Actually, I have to go out for dinner tonight too, so I’d better not.
- If you don’t mind, I’d prefer something a bit less filling/ spicy/ exotic/ adventurous.
- I’m afraid I don’t drink/ eat pork/ eat shellfish/ eat beef/ eat meat/ eat seafood.
- I might stick to soft drinks, actually.
- That’s very kind, but I couldn’t eat another thing.
- I would, but I’m afraid I’m absolutely stuffed.

Chatting about the food and restaurant/ Just making conversation
- This looks like a nice place. Do you come here often?
- The décor is great. Is this typical for this kind of place?
- Do people eat this kind of food all the time? Do people cook this kind of thing at home?
- Do you know how to make this one?

Complimenting/ Thanking
- Thanks, that was delicious.
- Thanks a lot, that was lovely.
- Thank you very much for your hospitality. I’ll do the same for you some time.
- You are too kind! You must let me take you out in return.
- I’ll have to see if I can find the same thing back home.
- You must email me the recipe for this so I can try and cook it at home.
- I’ll definitely come back here again.
- I’ll recommend this place to my colleagues.

Test each other in pairs or small groups:

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- Play the card game again
- See if your partner can remember the key words from one category above
- Help your partner make all the phrases from one category above, giving them hints such as key words if they get stuck
- Play the card games below
Guests and hosts in restaurants key words and card games

Work in groups of two to four people. Deal out the pack of cards that you are given. Pretend you are in a restaurant and roleplay the conversation between (one or more) guests and (one or more) hosts. Try to use the words on your cards during your conversation. If your partner accepts that you used the phrase in the right way, you can discard that card. The person with the fewest cards at the end of the game is the winner.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>again</th>
<th>ahead</th>
<th>allergy/ allergic</th>
<th>(an)other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>call(ed)</td>
<td>can(‘t)/ could(n’t)</td>
<td>colleague(s)</td>
<td>country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>delicious</td>
<td>don’t</td>
<td>drink</td>
<td>each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>else</td>
<td>expect(ed)</td>
<td>find</td>
<td>go</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>guest</td>
<td>help</td>
<td>home</td>
<td>hospitality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>how</td>
<td>kind</td>
<td>know</td>
<td>let</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>like</td>
<td>lovely</td>
<td>main</td>
<td>make/ made</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
<td>nice</td>
<td>okay</td>
<td>place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prefer</td>
<td>ready</td>
<td>really</td>
<td>recipe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recommend(ation)</td>
<td>room</td>
<td>see</td>
<td>share</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>soft</td>
<td>start(er)</td>
<td>stuffed</td>
<td>taste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>together</td>
<td>too</td>
<td>try(ing)/ tried</td>
<td>typical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vegetarian</td>
<td>way</td>
<td>whatever</td>
<td>you’d</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Guests and hosts functions card game

Work in groups of two to four people. Deal out the pack of cards that you are given. Pretend you are in a restaurant and roleplay the conversation between (one or more) guests and (one or more) hosts. Try to do the things written on your cards during your conversation. If your partner accepts that you have done that thing in the right way, you can discard that card. The person with the fewest cards at the end of the game is the winner.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asking for information</th>
<th>Asking for information</th>
<th>Asking for information</th>
<th>Asking for information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chatting about the food and restaurant</td>
<td>Chatting about the food and restaurant</td>
<td>Chatting about the food and restaurant</td>
<td>Chatting about the food and restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complimenting</td>
<td>Complimenting</td>
<td>Complimenting</td>
<td>Complimenting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making conversation</td>
<td>Making conversation</td>
<td>Making conversation</td>
<td>Making conversation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offering</td>
<td>Offering</td>
<td>Offering</td>
<td>Offering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommending/Suggesting</td>
<td>Recommending/Suggesting</td>
<td>Recommending/Suggesting</td>
<td>Recommending/Suggesting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refusing</td>
<td>Refusing</td>
<td>Refusing</td>
<td>Refusing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requesting</td>
<td>Requesting</td>
<td>Requesting</td>
<td>Requesting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanking</td>
<td>Thanking</td>
<td>Thanking</td>
<td>Thanking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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