Lesson 1

Ordering at a Restaurant

1 *Dialogue* 1-2

Listen to the dialogue and note the colloquial expressions.

Maitre d': Welcome to Vesuvio's. How many? [1]
Customer 1: A table for four, [2] please. Nonsmoking.
Maitre d': I can seat you straight away. [3] Please follow me.
[at the table]
Maitre d': Your waiter will be right with you. Here are your menus.
Waiter: Good evening, I'm André and I'll be your waiter this evening. Can I get you anything to drink before dinner?
Customer 1: I'll have a beer. What about you, honey? [4]
Customer 2: I'll have a goblet [5] of white wine, please.
Customer 3: I'm driving tonight, [6] so I'll just have a soft drink. [7]
Customer 4: What kind of mixed drinks [8] do you have?
Waiter: We can make just about anything you want. The frozen margaritas are good.
Customer 4: Ooh, [9] that sounds yummy. [10] I'll have that.
[waiter returns with the drinks]
Waiter: Here you all are. Are you ready to order now or do you need more time?
Customer 1: Are there any specials [11] this evening?
Waiter: Yes, we have a sirloin steak [12] with a baked potato, green salad, and soup.
Customer 3: Mmm, I'll have that . . . well-done, [13] please.
Waiter: OK, and for you, ma'am?
Customer 4: Hmm, I think I'll have the spaghetti and meatballs.
Customer 2: Me, too. That sounds really good.
Waiter: Two spaghetti and meatballs. And you, sir?
Customer 1: What do you recommend? [14]
Waiter: If you like fish, the baked salmon is excellent.
Customer 1: OK, I'll have that.

2 | *Vocabulary Expansion*

Check the meaning of the new words and expressions.

1. **How many?** [short for "How many people are in your group?"]

   `e.g.` **A:** Could I reserve a table for tonight? **B:** Certainly. How many, and at what time? **A:** Eight people at 7:30.

2. **A table for four.** = We need a table to seat four people.

   `e.g.` **A:** Yes, may I help you? **B:** We would like a table for four, please. Nonsmoking.

3. **straight away** = right now; immediately

   `e.g.` I need you to mail this letter straight away. It's urgent.

4. **honey** [An endearment term of affection used to refer to a spouse. Some other common terms are: sweetheart, baby, love, sweetie, sugar, etc.]

   `e.g.` **A:** Honey, where's the newspaper? **B:** It's on the table, darling.

5. **goblet** = a stemmed wine glass

   `e.g.` Could I have a goblet of red wine, please?

6. **I'm driving tonight.** = I can't drink alcohol because I am driving.

   `e.g.` **A:** Would you like a cocktail? **B:** I'd better not. I'm driving tonight.

7. **soft drink** = a beverage with no alcohol

   `e.g.` Could I have a soft drink with ice, please?

8. **mixed drinks** = cocktails

   `e.g.` **A:** Please order me a mixed drink from the bar. **B:** Do you want a gin and tonic as usual?

9. **ooh** [a sound people make when they like something or are impressed with someone or something]

   `e.g.` Ooh, look at that neat car. I want one!

10. **yummy** = delicious

    `e.g.` Chocolate ice cream is yummy.

11. **specials** [Sometimes restaurants will prepare an item on the menu and discount it slightly for one evening.]

    `e.g.` Let's go out to eat. They are having some specials at our favorite restaurant.

12. **sirloin steak** = a choice cut of beef

    `e.g.` I'll have a sirloin steak with mushroom sauce, please.

13. **well-done** = cooked completely [Other descriptions are: extra rare, rare, medium rare, medium, medium well.]

    `e.g.` **A:** My steak is a bit too rare. I'd like it well-done, please. **B:** Yes, sir.

14. **What do you recommend?** = What do you advise me to order?

    `e.g.` **A:** What do you recommend tonight? **B:** I recommend the daily special.

* **maitre d'** = maître d'hôtel (pronounced *may-tre-dee*), a French word meaning headwaiter

Comprehension Questions

Answer these questions from the dialogue.

1. How many people are in the party?

_____

2. When did the maitre d' say he could seat the customers?

_____

3. What is the waiter's name?

_____

4. What is the "special"?

_____

Matching

Decide the best combination of sentences, choosing from Column A and Column B.

Column A	Column B
How many?	• Four years old. • Four days. • A table for four.
• Hamburger in cold milk. • Fish and peanut butter ice cream. • Chocolate ice cream with nuts.	Ooh, that sounds yummy.
What would you like to drink?	• I'll have the steak platter. • I'll have a goblet of wine. • I'll have baked chicken.
• What is your favorite soft drink? • Would you like a mixed drink, sir? • Would you like a coffee, sir?	No, thank you. I'm driving tonight.

Listen and fill in the blanks, then role-play the dialogues with a partner.

A: (   ) (   ) Italy's Garden Restaurant. Do you have a reservation?

B: Yes, we do. The name is Honda.

A: Ah, yes, Mr. Honda. I can seat you (   ) (   ). How many?

B: Well, there will be two joining us later . . . so six all together.

A: All right. Please (   ) (   ).

A: Honey, what kind of (   ) (   ) are you in the mood for tonight?

B: (   ) (   ), so I'll just have a (   ) (   ).

A: Oh, that's too bad. Can't we get a taxi home?

B: No, not really. It's a bit far. But you (   ) (   ), order a cocktail.

A: Thanks. I think I will if you (   ) (   ).

A: Sir, are you ready to (   )?

B: I can't decide. What (   ) (   ) (   )?

A: Well, today's (   ) is quite good: chicken in cream sauce.

B: Mmm, I'll have that. It sounds (   ).

A: Anything to (   )?

B: (   ) (   ) tonight, so just a (   ) (   ), please.

Read about American culture and answer the questions using information from the reading.

Darling, Honey, Sweetie Pie!

Americans use terms of endearment extensively in everyday conversations with loved ones. This custom, which originated in European languages,
5 sometimes surprises Japanese people who hear an American calling to his wife from across a crowded room with a loud "sweetheart!" or a wife who calls her husband "darling" in front of his work
10 colleagues. These types of terms are rare in the Japanese language. People in the U.S. use these terms to show their affection for or familiarity with the other person.

15 Although these types of terms are mainly used between lovers, they are not necessarily only used in the context of an intimate relationship. For instance, parents often use terms of endearment with their children. Older people sometimes use them when talking to a younger person. Children are sometimes affectionately referred to as pumpkin, sugar, and sweetie pie. Grandparents and
20 aunts and uncles will sometimes use endearment terms with younger relatives even after they become adults and are married themselves.

Endearment terms are so natural in everyday conversations that most people don't notice when other people use these types of terms with them. However, a word of caution is needed here. Using an endearment term with someone you
25 aren't familiar with or do not know very well could be misinterpreted by the other person and offend him/her. It is best to use them only with family members, a husband or wife, or someone you know very well.

▣ Vocabulary Builder

1. The word *endearment* in line 1 is closest in meaning to:
   (a) coolness   **(b)** calmness   **(c)** affection

2. In line 16, *intimate* is closest in meaning to:
   (a) familiar   **(b)** distant   **(c)** unequal

3. Only lovers use terms of endearment with one another.
   (a) True   **(b)** False

4. In line 23, the word *notice* is closest in meaning to:
   (a) disregard   **(b)** observe   **(c)** ignore

5. *Misinterpreted*, line 25, is closest in meaning to:
   (a) misunderstood   **(b)** comprehended   **(c)** considered

▣ Short Answer

1. Where did the custom of using endearment terms originate?

   _____

2. What types of endearment terms are used with children?

   _____

3. Who will often use endearment terms with younger relatives?

   _____

4. What can offend another person?

   _____

5. Who is it best to use endearment terms with in America?

   _____