

Module 5: Au restaurant

Topic 2 Content: Service in French Restaurants

American's Perception of French Service



Americans often perceive the service to be slow or bad in French restaurants. As an American, you may be used to a server that comes to your table frequently to check on you, and to ask if you need something. In France, the servers do not do this because they feel that they are interrupting your conversation and rushing you if they come often. Instead, when you need something, attract the server's attention and then they will respond quickly.

Module 5: Au restaurant

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Getting Your Server's Attention



Servers in French restaurants are very well-trained and knowledgeable about food and wine. It is rare that you would find a teenager working as a server, as you often do in the U.S. It is very important to note, that the word for waiter is *garçon*, but you should never address your server with that word. You should refer to your server as Monsieur, Madame, or Mademoiselle. Calling “*Garçon*” is the equivalent of calling out “Boy” which would certainly be rude and inappropriate.

Module 5: Au restaurant
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Server or Customer



Listen to each audio clip and decide if the speaker is a customer or a server.

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Question 1

L'addition, s'il vous plait.

Question 2

Je vais prendre un sandwich au jambon. .

Question 3

Nous avons du café, du thé, du citron pressé et de l'eau minérale.

Question 4

Ca fait quatre-vingt-douze euros cinquante.

Module 5: Au restaurant

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Server or Customer Answer Key



Listen to each audio clip and decide if the speaker is a customer or a server.

Question 1

L'addition, s'il vous plait.

The customer asked for the check. .

Question 2

Nous avons du café, du thé, du citron pressé et de l'eau minérale.

The server is listing the kinds of drinks the restaurant has to offer.

Question 3

Ca fait quatre-vingt-douze euros cinquante.

The server is giving the total amount due to the customer

Question 4

Une serviette, s'il vous plait.

The customer is asking for a napkin.