



Order in a Spanish Café Like a Local

Spanish Lesson

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Video transcript

Hey there and welcome to Ablas! In today's video, we're going to walk through how to order in a Spanish café, like a native speaker in Madrid. Be sure to download the PDF of today's lesson from the link in the description!

Arriving at the café

So let's start by listening to a typical café interaction in Spanish.

Waiter:	¡Buenos días!
Elena:	¡Hola! ¿Hay mesa para dos, por favor?

Elena asked for a table to seat how many people?

- A. Two
- B. Three
- C. One

The correct answer is... two people.

Now that Elena has asked for a table, the waiter might ask where she and her partner want to sit. ¿Dónde os gustaría sentaros? Here are some examples of how she could respond:

- junto a la ventana (by the window).
- en la terraza (on the terrace).
- cerca de la barra (by the bar).
- adentro (inside).
- afuera (outside).

Waiter:	¿Preferís sentaros adentro o en la terraza?
Marco:	En la terraza, por favor.
Waiter:	¡Claro! Seguidme.

Browsing the menu

After the waiter takes them to their table, he hands them the menus – let's see if we can translate them.

Here are some of the drinks on the café menu.

café	coffee
café con leche	coffee with milk
café con hielo	iced coffee
té	tea
chocolate caliente	hot chocolate
agua mineral	mineral water
zumو de naranja	orange juice

And here are some of the food items.

Let's see what Elena and Marco are going to order.

tostada con mantequilla	toast with butter
bocadillo de jamón y queso	ham and cheese sandwich
cruasán	croissant

magdalena	muffin
torrijas	French toast
tarta de queso	cheesecake
galletas	cookies

Waiter:	¿Estáis listos para pedir?
Elena:	Creo que estamos listos. ¿Me podrías dar una tostada con mermelada, por favor?
Waiter:	Por supuesto. ¿Te traigo algo de beber?

What did Elena order with her toast?

- A. Honey
- B. Jam
- C. Butter

The correct answer is... jam (mermelada). Not to be confused with the word for "butter": mantequilla.

What is the waiter asking here: ¿Te traigo algo de beber?

- A. Would you like something sweet?
 - B. Can I get you something to drink?
 - C. Are you ready to pay?
- _____

The correct answer is... Can I get you something to drink?

Elena:	Chocolate caliente, por favor.
Marco:	Para mí, un café con leche y un cruasán.
Waiter:	Claro, ¿deseas algo más?
Elena:	Ya está, gracias.

Problems and special requests

Did you pick up on what Marco ordered there? We'll go through the full translation a bit later, but now let's look at how to deal with problems and special requests.

Waiter:	Aquí tenéis.
Marco:	Creo que ha habido un error. No pedimos esto.
Waiter:	Oh, es verdad. Lo siento, os traeré vuestro pedido enseguida.

What was the problem?

- A. The table hadn't been cleaned
 - B. It was the wrong order
 - C. The food was too cold
- _____

The correct answer is... it was the wrong order. The waiter apologised and said he would bring their order right away.

Elena:	Este chocolate caliente está delicioso.
Marco:	Este café también. Pero me gustaría tomar una de sus magdalenas.
Elena:	Le preguntaré al camarero. ¡Disculpa!
Waiter:	¿Todo bien?
Elena:	¿Podrías traernos una de tus magdalenas, por favor?
Waiter:	Por supuesto.
Marco:	¿Podrías decirme dónde está el baño, por favor?
Waiter:	Está justo ahí.

What did Elena ask for?

- A. A drink
 - B. A cookie
 - C. A muffin
-

The correct answer is... a muffin (una magdalena).

What did Marco ask for?

- A. Directions to the toilet
 - B. A refill on his drink
 - C. The bill
-

The correct answer is... directions to the toilet. He said: ¿Dónde está el baño?

Paying the bill

And speaking of paying the bill, let's see how to do just that as we finish the conversation.

But first, let's cover some key vocabulary for making payments.

Let's see how Elena and Marco are going to pay.

la cuenta	the bill
con tarjeta	by card
en efectivo	by cash

sin contacto	contactless
el cambio	the change
una propina	a tip

Elena:	La cuenta, por favor.
Waiter:	No hay problema. ¿Qué tal la comida?
Marco:	Estaba muy deliciosa, gracias.
Waiter:	Aquí está la cuenta.
Elena:	¿Cuánto es?
Waiter:	14,50 €. ¿Pagáis en efectivo o con tarjeta?
Elena:	En efectivo. Aquí tienes, quédate con el cambio.
Waiter:	Muchas gracias. Que tengáis un buen día.

How did they pay for their meal?

- A. Contactless
- B. By card
- C. By cash

The correct answer is... by cash (en efectivo).

Full conversation

Now let's listen to the conversation in full, with both Spanish and English translations.

	English	Spanish
Waiter:	Good morning!	¡Buenos días!
Elena:	Hello! Do you have a table for two, please?	¡Hola! ¿Hay mesa para dos, por favor?
Waiter:	Would you prefer to sit inside or on the terrace?	¿Preferís sentaros adentro o en la terraza?
Marco:	On the terrace, please.	En la terraza, por favor.
Waiter:	Of course! Follow me.	¡Claro! Seguidme.
	The waiter shows them to their table and comes back a few minutes later to ask them for their order.	El camarero les acompaña a su mesa y vuelve unos minutos después para preguntarles por su pedido.
Waiter:	Are you ready to order?	¿Estáis listos para pedir?
Elena:	I think we're ready. Could I get some toast with jam, please?	Creo que estamos listos. ¿Me podrías dar una tostada con mermelada, por favor?
Waiter:	Of course. Can I bring you something to drink?	Por supuesto. ¿Te traigo algo de beber?
Elena:	A hot chocolate, please.	Chocolate caliente, por favor.
Marco:	A coffee with milk and a croissant for me.	Para mí, un café con leche y un cruasán.
Waiter:	Sure, would you like anything else?	Claro, ¿deseas algo más?
Elena:	That's all, thanks.	Ya está, gracias.
	Shortly after, the waiter brings some food to their table.	Poco después, el camarero les lleva comida a la mesa.

	English	Spanish
Waiter:	Here you go.	Aquí tenéis.
Marco:	I think there's been a mistake. We didn't order this.	Creo que ha habido un error. No pedimos esto.
Waiter:	Oh, that's right. I'm sorry, I'll bring you your order right away.	Oh, es verdad. Lo siento, os traeré vuestro pedido enseguida.
	After getting the correct order, they start eating.	Después de conseguir el pedido correcto, empiezan a comer.
Elena:	This hot chocolate is delicious.	Este chocolate caliente está delicioso.
Marco:	So is this coffee. But I'd like to try one of their muffins.	Este café también. Pero me gustaría tomar una de sus magdalenas.
Elena:	I'll ask the waiter. Excuse me!	Le preguntaré al camarero. ¡Disculpa!
Waiter:	Is everything OK?	¿Todo bien?
Elena:	Could we get one of your muffins, please?	¿Podrías traernos una de tus magdalenas, por favor?
Waiter:	Of course.	Por supuesto.
Marco:	Could you tell me where the toilets are, please?	¿Podrías decirme dónde está el baño, por favor?
Waiter:	They're just over there.	Está justo ahí.
	Once they finish their meal, Elena asks the waiter for the bill.	Una vez terminada la comida, Elena pide la cuenta al camarero.
Elena:	The bill, please.	La cuenta, por favor.

	English	Spanish
Waiter:	No problem. How was your meal?	No hay problema. ¿Qué tal la comida?
Marco:	It was very delicious, thanks.	Estaba muy deliciosa, gracias.
Waiter:	Here's the bill.	Aquí está la cuenta.
Elena:	How much is it?	¿Cuánto es?
Waiter:	€14.50. Are you paying by cash or card?	14,50 €. ¿Pagáis en efectivo o con tarjeta?
Elena:	By cash. Here you go, keep the change.	En efectivo. Aquí tienes, quédate con el cambio.
Waiter:	Thank you very much. Have a nice day.	Muchas gracias. Que tengáis un buen día.

Recap

Let's recap over the key phrases we covered in today's lesson.

- ¿Hay mesa para uno/dos/tres? "Do you have a table for one/two/three?"
- ¿Dónde os gustaría sentaros? "Where would you like to sit?"
- ¿Me podrías dar...? "Could I have...?"
- ¿Te traigo algo de beber? "Can I bring you something to drink?"
- No pedimos esto. "We didn't order this."
- ¿Dónde está el baño? "Where are the toilets?"
- ¿Qué tal la comida? "How was the meal?"
- ¿Pagáis en efectivo o con tarjeta? "Are you paying by cash or card?"

Your task

Well done for getting this far!

Now your task is to write a new conversation where Elena and Marco visit a restaurant for dinner. Try to make use of the phrases we covered, and have a go at reading the conversation out loud.

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