



UNIT 6B · GENERAL A1

I'd like a coffee, please

Class Book and Workbook · one complete unit

By the end you will...

- Order food and drink politely in a café or restaurant
- Use 'I'd like...' instead of 'I want...' for polite requests
- Ask about prices with 'How much is / are...?'
- Understand the difference between countable and uncountable nouns
- Use 'a little / a few' with countable and uncountable nouns

Warm-up · At the counter

Think about the last time you ordered food or drink. Answer with short sentences.

- What do you usually order in a café?
- Do you say 'please' and 'thank you' when you order?
- Is it expensive or cheap where you usually eat?

1. Lead-in · In a café: what do you say?

Choose the best sentence for the situation.

You want a coffee. The waiter is at your table.

You want to know the price.

The waiter brings your food.

You want to pay.

Practise the four sentences with your partner. One is the waiter.

2. Reading · A morning at the café

Every morning, Mr Costa goes to the same café. 'I'd like a coffee and a croissant, please,' he says. The coffee is two euros and the croissant is one euro fifty.

Today, a new customer, Beatriz, is at the café. 'How much is a tea?' she asks. 'A tea is one euro eighty,' says the waiter. 'Would you like some milk with it?' 'Yes, please. Just a little,' Beatriz answers.

Beatriz also wants some fruit. 'Do you have any bananas?' she asks. 'We have a few bananas, yes,' says the waiter. She buys a banana and a tea. 'That's three euros twenty, please,' he says.

Comprehension

What does Mr Costa order every morning?

How does Beatriz want her tea?

How much does Beatriz pay in total?

2b. Words in the texts

Match the word with the meaning.

- waiter
a person who serves food and drink in a café
- a little
a small amount (uncountable, e.g. milk)
- a few
a small number (countable, e.g. bananas)

- customer
a person who buys something

2c. Talk about the texts

Answer in one or two sentences.

- What would you like to order at this café?
Answer key: Model: I'd like a tea and a croissant, please.
- Do you drink your coffee or tea with milk?
Answer key: Model: Yes, I drink my coffee with a little milk.

Coffee Prices: Why Is a Cup So Expensive Now?

Source: Apex English · graded news-style report · Original text written for Apex English (A1 graded reader)

A short report about why coffee prices go up in many cities.

A cup of coffee is more expensive now in many cities. Ten years ago, a coffee was often one euro. Today, a coffee is sometimes three or four euros.

Why? Café owners say the price of coffee beans, milk and sugar is higher now. 'I don't like the higher prices,' says one café owner, 'but I need to pay my workers.'

Customers have different opinions. 'I still order a coffee every morning. I don't mind the price,' says one man. But others say, 'How much is a coffee now? It's too expensive for me.' Some people now make coffee at home instead.

1. READ FOR GIST

- What is the text about?
Answer key: Why coffee is more expensive now in many cities.
- How do customers feel about the price?
Answer key: Some don't mind, but others think it's too expensive.

2. READ FOR DETAIL

- How much was a coffee ten years ago?
Answer key: Often one euro.
- How much is a coffee today?
Answer key: Sometimes three or four euros.
- Why do café owners raise the price?
Answer key: The price of coffee beans, milk and sugar is higher, and they need to pay workers.
- What do some people do instead of buying coffee?
Answer key: They make coffee at home.

3. GLOSSARY

coffee bean

the small seed used to make coffee

owner

the person who has the business

expensive

costing a lot of money

instead

in place of something else

4. DISCUSS IN PAIRS

- How much is a coffee where you live?
- Do you prefer to buy coffee or make it at home?

3. Vocabulary · Ordering and prices

SET A

menu

the list of food and drink you can order

bill

the paper that shows how much you pay

waiter / waitress

the person who serves you

price

how much something costs

a little

a small amount of an uncountable noun (water, milk, sugar)

a few

a small number of a countable noun (apples, bananas)

SET B

I'd like..., please.

the polite way to order

How much is / are...?

ask about the price

Can I have the bill, please?

ask to pay at the end

Anything else?

the waiter asks if you want more

Practice

Complete with ONE word.

- I'd like a tea, please.
- How much is the coffee?
- How much are the croissants?
- Can I have the bill, please?
- I'd like a little milk in my coffee.

3b. Countable or uncountable?

Match the food or drink with its group.

- water, milk, coffee
uncountable
- bananas, apples, sandwiches
countable
- sugar, bread, rice
uncountable
- eggs, croissants, cups
countable

4. Grammar · I'd like..., How much...?, countable/uncountable

I'd like (= I would like)

I'd like a coffee, please. — more polite than 'I want'.

I'd like + noun / to + verb

I'd like a tea. I'd like to order, please.

Countable nouns

Nouns you can count: one apple, two apples, a few apples.

Uncountable nouns

Nouns you can't count: water, milk, sugar, bread, rice. No plural: not 'milks'.

a little + uncountable

a little water, a little sugar.

a few + countable

a few apples, a few sandwiches.

How much / How many

How much is the coffee? How much are the sandwiches? How many apples do you want?

4a. Write with I'd like

Rewrite each sentence with I'd like.

- Coffee, please. (make it a full polite sentence)
Answer key: I'd like a coffee, please.
- I want tea and a croissant.
Answer key: I'd like tea and a croissant, please.
- Two teas, please. (make it a full polite sentence)
Answer key: I'd like two teas, please.

4b. Countable or uncountable?

Write C for countable or U for uncountable.

- milk
Answer key: U
- banana
Answer key: C

- rice
Answer key: U
- sandwich
Answer key: C
- sugar
Answer key: U
- egg
Answer key: C

4c. a little or a few?

Complete with a little or a few.

- I'd like ___ sugar in my tea.
Answer key: a little
- There are ___ apples in the bag.
Answer key: a few
- Can I have ___ water, please?
Answer key: a little
- We need ___ eggs for the cake.
Answer key: a few

Look at the picture and use the grammar you just studied

Look at the picture. Write 4–5 sentences. Use 'I'd like', 'How much...?' and one countable and one uncountable noun.

5. Listening · Ordering lunch

Tom orders lunch from Grace, a waitress, at a small restaurant. Listen for the food, the drink and the price.

Two voices — no narrator introduction.

Before you listen

- What do you usually order for lunch?
- Do you check the price before you order?

First listen — gist

- Where is Tom?
Answer key: At a small restaurant, ordering lunch.
- What does he order?
Answer key: A sandwich, some soup and a coffee.

Second listen — detail

- Does Tom want a little or a lot of pepper in his soup?
Answer key: Just a little pepper.
- How much is the sandwich?
Answer key: Four euros fifty.
- How much is the total?
Answer key: Nine euros.

- Does Grace ask 'Anything else?'

Answer key: Yes, she asks if he wants anything else, and he says no thank you.

5b. Useful language

Match the phrase with the use.

- What would you like?
the waiter asks for your order
- I'd like..., please.
you give your order politely
- Anything else?
the waiter asks if you want more
- That's... euros, please.
the waiter tells you the price

6. Speaking · I'd like..., please

Work in pairs. Practise ordering food and drink politely with I'd like and How much...?

- At a café
A: You are the customer. Order a drink and something to eat.
B: You are the waiter/waitress. Ask 'What would you like?' and give a price.
- At a market stall
A: Ask 'How much are the apples?' and 'Can I have a few, please?'
B: Answer with a price and 'Anything else?'

6b. Talk together

Ask and answer in pairs.

- What do you usually order in a café?
- Do you prefer a little or a lot of sugar in your drink?
- Is food expensive in your city?
- What is your favourite thing to order for lunch?

6c. Mini presentation · My favourite order

Talk for one minute about what you usually order at your favourite café or restaurant.

- Say the name or type of place
- Say what you'd like to order (drink and food)
- Say how much it usually costs
- Say if it's countable or uncountable food
- Say why you like it

7. Writing · At my favourite café

Write 40–50 words about ordering food at your favourite café. Use 'I'd like..., please', 'How much...?' and at least one countable and one uncountable noun.

WORKBOOK · HOME PRACTICE

Unit 6B Workbook

Do this after class. Answers are marked for your teacher.

1. Vocabulary gap-fill

Complete each sentence with ONE word from the box.

- Can I have the bill, please? I want to pay.
- Can I see the menu, please?
- The waiter brought us water and bread.
- What is the price of the coffee?
- I'd like a little sugar in my tea.
- There are a few apples left in the bag.
- I would like a tea, please.

2. I'd like or I want?

Choose the more polite sentence for a café.

- Ordering a coffee politely:
Answer key: I'd like a coffee, please.
- Ordering a sandwich politely:
Answer key: I'd like a sandwich, please.
- Asking to pay politely:
Answer key: Can I have the bill, please?
- Asking about price politely:
Answer key: How much is the tea, please?

3. Countable or uncountable?

Choose the correct group for each word.

milk

banana

sugar

sandwich

bread

egg

4. Find and fix the mistake

Each sentence has ONE mistake. Write it correctly.

- I want a coffee, please. (make it more polite)
Answer key: I'd like a coffee, please.
- How much are the coffee?
Answer key: How much is the coffee?
- How much is the sandwiches?
Answer key: How much are the sandwiches?
- I'd like a few water, please.
Answer key: I'd like a little water, please.
- There are a little apples in the bag.
Answer key: There are a few apples in the bag.

- I'd like to a tea, please.

Answer key: I'd like a tea, please.

5. Listening · Ordering breakfast

A customer orders breakfast at a café. Listen for the order and the price.

- What does the customer order to eat?

Answer key: A croissant and some fruit.

- What does she order to drink?

Answer key: A coffee with a little milk.

- How much is the total?

Answer key: Five euros twenty.

6. Writing · Ordering at a café

Write a short dialogue (40–50 words) between a customer and a waiter. Use 'I'd like..., please' and 'How much...?'.

7. Reflection

Answer in one or two sentences.

- Do you find 'a little' and 'a few' difficult? Give one example of each.

Answer key: Model: Yes, a little. For example: 'a little sugar' and 'a few bananas'.

- Write your favourite order at a café using I'd like.

Answer key: Model: I'd like a cappuccino and a croissant, please.