

Level: Upper Intermediate
Lesson: 25
Title: "Restaurants"

Summary:

Denise and Lisa chat at a restaurant.

Lisa and Denise have just taken their seats in a restaurant. Listen to their conversation and answer the question that follows about the main idea.

Dialogue:

Denise: Finally, we're here! Can you believe we had to make reservations a month in advance?

Lisa: Of course, this is the new **hot spot** in town!



Denise: I've got to say the ambience is fantastic! Let's hope the food **lives up to its reputation**. Have you decided what you're gonna have?

Lisa: No, not yet! Everything sounds so **yummy**! What about you?



Denise: You know me, I always stick to what I know.

Lisa: Don't tell me...bacon and eggs!



Denise: Ha ha, very funny! No, actually I thought I'd be a little more **daring** this time. I'm gonna go for the fillet mignon!



Lisa: Wow, I'm impressed!

WAITER: Good evening! Are you ready to order?

Denise: Sure, I'll have the rib-eye, medium rare...



Lisa I'll have the fillet mignon with the sauce...and a glass of red wine for each of us.

Denise: How's your dish?

Lisa : The sauce is a little rich ... other than that, very tasty! How's yours?

Denise: **Nothing to write home about!** Actually, it's a bit undercooked for my taste!

Lisa : You said you wanted it medium rare.

Denise: I do like the wine though!



Lisa Yes, it's got a ...sort of...subtle fruity taste, I like it.



Denise: Should we **indulge in** a nice creamy or chocolaty dessert?



Lisa : As much as I'd like to, I'm still trying to get rid of the extra weight I gained over the holidays.

Denise Give me the check, please! **It's my treat!**

Lisa No way, you paid last time!

Denise Alright, be cool, I know how to settle this! **Let's go Dutch!**

Lisa Sounds fair!

Now answer the following question...

What is the relationship between Lisa and Denise?

They are good friends

Now listen again to the dialogue in parts. After each part there will be 3 to 4 questions on some details...

Part 1

Denise: Finally, we're here! Can you believe we had to make reservations a month in advance.

Lisa: Of course, this is the new **hot spot** in town!

Denise: I've got to say the ambience is fantastic! Let's hope the food **lives up to its reputation**. Have you decided what you're gonna have?

Lisa: No, not yet! Everything sounds so **yummy!** What about you?

Denise: You know me, I always stick to what I know.

Lisa: Don't tell me...bacon and eggs!

Denise: Ha ha, very funny! No, actually I thought I'd be a little more **daring** this time. I'm gonna go for the fillet mignon!

Lisa: Wow, I'm impressed!

Waiter: Good evening! Are you ready to order?

Denise: Sure, I'll have the rib-eye, medium rare...

Lisa: I'll have the fillet mignon with the sauce...and a glass of red wine for each of us.

Now get ready to answer some questions:

1. Lisa says, "this is the new **hot spot** in town!"
What do we mean when we refer to a place as a hotspot?

A hotspot is a popular restaurant or club in a town/city where many people go.
2. Denise says, "Let's hope the food **lives up to its reputation.**"
What does she mean?

When something lives up to its reputation it's as good as people say it is.
3. Lisa says, "Everything sounds so **yummy!**"
What does she mean?

Yummy is an informal expression for delicious.
4. Denise says, "I thought I'd be a little more **daring** this time."
What kind of person is daring?

A daring person takes chances and often does things which are risky.

Now listen to the second part of the dialogue.

PART 2

Denise: How's your dish?

Lisa : The sauce is a little rich ... other than that, very tasty! How's yours?

Denise: **Nothing to write home about!** Actually, it's a bit undercooked for my taste!

- Lisa:** You said you wanted it medium rare.
- Denise:** I do like the wine though!
- Lisa** Yes, it's got a ...sort of...subtle fruity taste, I like it.
- Denise:** Should we **indulge in** a nice creamy or chocolaty dessert?
- Lisa:** As much as I'd like to, I'm still trying to get rid of the extra weight I gained over the holidays.
- Denise** Give me the check, please! **It's my treat!**
- Lisa** No way, you paid last time!
- Denise** Alright, be cool, I know how to settle this! **Let's go Dutch!**
- Lisa** Sounds fair!

Now get ready to answer some questions:

1. Denise says her dish is, "**Nothing to write home about!**"
What does she mean?

We use this expression when we want to say that there is nothing special about something it is just ordinary.
2. Denise says, "Should we **indulge in** a nice creamy or chocolaty dessert?"
What does "indulge in" mean?

To allow yourself the pleasure of doing something even though it might be bad for you.
3. Denise says, "**It's my treat!**" What does she mean?

She will pay for both of them.
4. Denise says "**Let's go Dutch**". What does she mean?

They will each pay for their own share.

Please visit our site at www.hau.gr to find the transcripts, explanations and activities.

GLOSSARY

Ambience (noun) is used for the character of a place or the quality it seems to have (e.g. Despite being a busy city, this place has the ambience of a country town.)

Daring (adjective) a daring person takes chances and often does things which are risky.

(e.g. He's very daring! He has tried all extreme sports, and he even went base-jumping the other day.)

Go Dutch (expression) is to agree to share the cost of something, most commonly used for a meal or drinks.

Hot spot (expression) is a popular restaurant or club in a town/city where many people go.

Indulge in (verb) is to allow yourself the pleasure of doing something even though it might be bad for you.

(e.g. Should we allow ourselves to indulge in a nice creamy or chocolatey dessert?)

It's my treat (expression) means that I will pay this time.

Live up to one's reputation (expression) when something lives up to its reputation it's as good as people say it is.

Nothing to write home about. (expression) we use this expression when we want to say that there is nothing special about something, it is just ordinary.

(e.g. Their performance was nothing to write home about.)

Rich (adjective) if food is rich, it contains a large amount of oil, butter, eggs or cream. (e.g. This chocolate cake is too rich for my taste.)

Stick to something (phrasal verb) means to limit yourself to doing or using one particular thing and not change to anything else.

(e.g. Could you please stick to the point?)

Subtle (adjective) not loud, bright, noticeable or obvious in any way.

(e.g. The room was painted a subtle shade of peach.)

Yummy (informal expression) means delicious. (e.g. This cake is yummy!)

ACTIVITIES

Activity 1

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the words in the glossary.

1. It's my birthday so tonight.
2. I love the of this restaurant, it's so relaxing.
3. The film's message is perhaps too to be understood by young children.
4. *Implicit* is the new in town, everybody goes there.
5. Let's stop arguing over the bill, and just after all, I think it's the fairest solution.
6. Even though I'm on diet, I allow myself to some ice-cream once a week.
7. This pie is so! Did you make it yourself?
8. This is just an ordinary restaurant,
9. Don't you think going out in that dress is a little too It's completely see-through.
10. I'm afraid this hotel does not the rooms are dirty and the staff is unfriendly.
11. I can't finish the pasta, the sauce is too
12. When I go out I don't like to experiment with new places, I prefer to the ones I know.

Activity 2

In the dialogue Lisa says: *You said you wanted it medium rare.* This tells us what Denise had said before.

Reported speech is used with a noun clause to report what someone has said. We do not use quotation marks when we are reporting. For example:

Direct Speech: Marie said, "I walk to work every day."

Reported Speech: Marie said (that) she walked to work every day.

To form reported speech we put the verb in the noun clause "one tense back." For example:

listen → *listened*
am listening → *was listening*
have listened → *had listened*
will listen → *would listen*
may listen → *might listen*
must listen → *had to listen*
should listen → *should listen*

Note: (the modals: *should, ought to, could* and *might* do not change to a past form)

Change these direct sentences into reported speech.

1. Don asked, "What are you talking about?"
Don asked me
2. Ronda said, "I might go to San Francisco for Christmas."
Ronda said (that)
3. Tamara said, "I am going to go to the cinema with Jonathan."
Tamara told me (that)
4. Zara said, "I may go shopping."
Zara said (that).....
5. "I will come to the party," said Daisy.
Daisy told me (that)

KEY TO ACTIVITIES

Activity 1

- 1) it's my treat
- 2) ambience
- 3) subtle
- 4) hot spot
- 5) go Dutch
- 6) indulge in
- 7) yummy
- 8) nothing to write home about
- 9) daring
- 10) live up to its reputation
- 11) rich
- 12) stick to

Activity 2

- 1) what I was talking about
- 2) she might go to San Francisco for Christmas
- 3) she was going to go to the cinema with Jonathan
- 4) she might go shopping
- 5) she would come to the party