



# 10 minutes of English Break



## EATING OUT

### Warmer

While we are dining, we must consider a number of factors: from our manners and etiquette to the topics of conversation. Although there are very few differences between a formal and informal dining experience, we must be aware of the context, the conversation, how we carry ourselves and the type of place. One of the main differences between a formal and informal dinner will often be the type of restaurant. A business meeting is very unlikely to take place in a fast food restaurant, although they can often take place in coffee shops.

### THE CONDITIONAL VERSUS THE PRESENT SIMPLE

In British English, it is very common when asking for, or requesting, something to use the conditional “I would like...” or “Would you be able to .....?” rather than using the present simple “I want...” or “Can you...?” It is perceived as more polite and formal. In American English, however, “I want” and “I would like” mean the same thing, although “I want” portrays a stronger wanting for the object. “Want” is direct and simple. Use this when you are definite and stating a fact. However, be aware that being direct may also sound rude and selfish. “Would like” is suitable for requests and wishes. It is indirect and polite because it expresses something imagined (subjunctive), not something factual and direct.

## MAKING A PHONE CONVERSATION

### OTHER SPEAKER

» Hello, Good..... . How may I help you?

» Good....., the ..(name of restaurant).....

Yes, certainly. What time would you like?

» Of course. What time may I make you reservation?

» Ok, that's perfect.

» I'm afraid we have no availability at this time.

We have ....., ..... or .....

» I'm sorry, but the only times we have available are.....

### STUDENT

» Hello, I would like to make a reservation for .....

Hello, I would like to make a reservation for a party/ group of ..... for .....

» I would like to make the reservation for .....

» At ..... if possible, .....

» Well then, could I make the booking for .....

» Could I call you back to confirm? I just need to speak with my guests.

» I'm afraid we have the ..... starting at ..... That won't suit, thanks for your help. Bye.



