

Lesson 4. At the restaurant

Important notes

- *El/la* and ‘the’: you may have noticed that sometimes you have *el* or *la* in the Spanish dialogue (as in *y les voy a traer también la sal y la pimienta*), but no ‘the’ in the English translation ‘and I’m also going to bring you salt and pepper’. For the moment let’s just say that it is more common to use *el* and *la* in Spanish than *the* in English, but there are also occasions in which you use ‘the’ but not *el* or *la*. We will see examples of this throughout the dialogues.
- *De*: Notice the way you say fish soup, beef steak or wine list in Spanish: *sopa de pescado*, *filete de vaca*, *carta de vinos*. You are actually saying: soup of fish, steak of beef, list of wines.
- *Al* = *a* + *el* (to the). That is why we say *al hotel* (to the hotel), but *a la playa* (to the beach).
- Other useful expressions: *dentro de una hora* (in an hour), *de primero* (as a starter), *de segundo* (for the main course), *¿algo más?* (anything else?), *eso es todo* (that’s all), *¿me puede decir ... ?* (can you tell me ...?), *al fondo* (at the end), *a la derecha* (on the right), *por aquí* (this way), *¿qué nos recomienda?* (what do you recommend), *¿nos puede traer ...?* (can you bring us ...?), *¡cómo no!* (of course!), *más tarde* (later on).

You may wonder...

Are all nouns ending in ‘o’ masculine, and in ‘a’ feminine? No. The majority are but there are exceptions, like *la radio*.

Could you say *perdón* instead of *lo siento*? Yes. *Perdón* and *lo siento* both mean *I’m sorry*.

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