

Dialogue 3: Ordering Food

This conversation is occurring between two students and a waitress.

A: I'm starving! Let's go get something to eat.

B: Do you want to just get a snack or do you want to have dinner?

A: A snack is not going to cut it! I am way too hungry I need to eat dinner!

B: OK, OK. Do you want to go out to eat or stay in?

A: It's Friday – let's go out!

B: Sounds good, I know a great new restaurant that has good food and a unique atmosphere.

A: A unique atmosphere?

B: You'll see what I mean when we get there.

A: OK...

(Students bike to the restaurant and then go inside and take a seat)

A: This place has nice décor, but I'm not sure why you said it was so unique.

B: True, the décor isn't anything special, but look at your menu.

A: What! It's all in English!

B: Yes, isn't that great! I thought we could try Crystal's 'daily 5 minute challenge' by ordering food at an English-only restaurant.

A: Oh no, why did you choose to come here on a day when I am so hungry!

B: In a word, 'motivation'. I thought that if you were hungry you would be less shy ordering food in English.

A: Well...you were right! Great here comes the waitress.

W: Hi there, can I start you off with something to drink?

A: Sure, I'd like a cup of coffee and a glass of water please.

W: Sure thing, and for you?

B: Could I have an apple juice please.

W: OK. Are you ready to order?

A: Yes, definitely.

B: No, I haven't decided yet. Do you have any specials today?

W: We sure do! We have a make-your-own pizza special for \$150NT and a turkey club sandwich special for \$100NT.

B: Ummmmm...Hmmmmm...Those sound good, but maybe I will look at the menu again.

A: No, no, no. Let me order for you.

B: Really? OK, thanks.

A: OK...I will have the make-your-own pizza special and my friend will have the turkey club sandwich special.

W: Great, what toppings would you like on your pizza?

A: Green peppers, mushrooms, and pineapple, please.

W: Would you like a 10 inch or 12 inch pizza?

A: 10 inch please.

W: Now for the sandwich, would your friend like that on white or brown?

A: On brown please.

W: Would you like fries or salad with the turkey club sandwich?

A: Salad please.

W: OK, got it. Your meals will be ready shortly.

A: Great, thanks.

B: Wow that was great! Your English was fantastic!

A: Thanks. You were right I think being hungry helped calm my nerves.

B: I knew it would. We should come back here sometime.

A: Sure, but next time let's wait until *you're* very hungry!

B: OK, it's a deal.

Sentence Explanations

1) I'm starving

This means you're really hungry

Example: "I forgot my lunch at home today, and I was starving in class!"

2) (Something) is not going to cut it

This means that something is not good enough or not sufficient.

Example: "You only studied for 5 minutes for the exam? That's not going to cut it!"

3) In a word ' _____ '

You can use this sentence to summarize something that would take a long time to explain. After saying this sentence you may or may not continue to explain what you mean in more detail. *Note: This sentence is mostly used in spoken English and is rarely written.*

Example: "How was your vacation?"

"In a word, 'terrible!' First of all I forgot my passport, then I missed my plane, then I was robbed and to make matters worse I caught an awful cold!"

4) (Something) isn't anything special

This means that something is normal (not really bad or good).

Example: "How was your weekend?"

"It wasn't anything special; I just stayed at home and did homework"

Common Mistakes

✗ snake

😊 snack

Many people mispronounce the word 'snack' and it sounds like they are saying snake.

✗ I want to go outside for dinner.

😊 I want to go out for dinner.

If you don't want to eat dinner at home you go 'out' to eat, not 'outside'. If you say "let's go outside to eat" the meaning is that you want to have a picnic.

✗ I want a club sandwich.

😊 I would like a club sandwich.

The first sentence is grammatically correct, but it sounds rude. If you are ordering food in English it is always better to say 'would like' instead of 'want'.