



# Au Bar

In France you sit in a bar at a table and sooner or later a waiter will appear.

If you order **un café** you'll get a black coffee. **Un café crème** includes milk and **un café au lait** (the breakfast cup) is usually with hot milk.

For a draft beer, ask for **une pression**.

You are the waiter. Your teacher catches your attention, and orders a drink. What does s/he order from the tariff below?

S/he asks for the bill. Say how much it is.

## TARIF DES CONSOMMATIONS (euros)

limonade	2,50
jus de fruits	2,50
citron pressé	2,80
orange pressée	2,80
eau minerale	1,60
cafe	2,40
cafe crème	2,60
chocolat	2,40
thé	2,40
lait	2,40
citron	2,40
vin	
rouge	2,70
rosé	2,70
blanc	2,70
kir	2,50
biere	
bouteille	2,80
bière-pression	2,40
cognac	4,10
champagne	
la coupe	4,60
bouteille	36,00
martini	2,80
cocktail	4,60
pernod	2,90

**S'il vous plaît** please, excuse me!  
**excusez-moi** excuse me  
**qu'est-ce que vous voudriez ?** what would you like?  
**je voudrais** I would like ...  
**je vais prendre ....** I'm going to have ....  
**un verre d'eau** a glass of water  
**une eau minérale** a mineral water  
**une eau plate** still water  
**une eau gazeuse** fizzy water  
**un jus d'orange** an orange juice  
**une limonade** a lemonade  
**coca-cola, un** a coke  
**une bière** a beer  
**thé, au lait / citron, un** a cup of tea  
**un café (crème)** a (white) coffee  
  **décaféiné** decaffeinated  
**chocolat chaud, un** hot chocolate  
**vin rouge, un verre de** a glass of red wine  
**vin rosé, un verre de** a glass of rosé  
**vin blanc, un verre de** a glass of white wine  
**kir, un** a kir  
**(bière) pression, une** a draught beer  
**bière blonde** a lager  
**bière brune** a beer  
**demi(-pression), un** a 'half' (i.e. 25 cl.)  
**voilà** there you are  
**c'est combien?** how much is it?  
**l'addition s'il vous plaît** the bill please  
**c'est six euros** it is six euros  
**merci** thank you  
**je vous en prie** at your service  
**gardez la monnaie** keep the change

Your turn to order. Your colleagues with you in the bar ask you to order:

- a large hot chocolate
- an orange juice
- a glass of rosé
- a draught beer
- a coke
- a glass of water
- a decaff coffee, with milk

## alors

French people say this word a lot. It's almost the same as an English 'uhm' or 'ah', and fills pauses, paving the way for more words. It comes at the beginning of what someone says ('Okay, so ...') or in the middle ('er') or at the end ('right' or 'indeed').



Qu'est-ce que vous allez prendre, Monsieur ?

Je vais prendre une bière, svp

What drinks do you like or order for yourself and for people you travel with? Make a French list of anything you are likely to ask for.

Here's a simple regular exercise for beginners: in quiet moments speak *English* with a French accent, and when you pause use *French* grunts **..euh...** and **..alors...** instead of English 'er' or 'uhm'. Drop more French phrases in as you think of them ... but keep it effort-free.

## S'il vous plaît !

One quick way to attract someone's attention is to say "**S'il vous plaît !**". In English we say "excuse me!" which is possible in French too, (**excusez-moi, je m'excuse**) though these have a slight hint of excuse or apology.

Another way to get a waiter's attention is to call out a title ... "**M'sieur !**" or "**Madame !**", or to someone obviously in their 20s or younger "**Mademoiselle !**".

"**Garçon !**" is another title for waiters, though this might be patronising ("Boy!"). Some waiters have a decorum of all their own, and make their profession a model of dignity and elegance, serving you with an ingrained sense of superiority. For them "**Garçon !**" might not be the ideal opener.

*Translate the English into French:*

SERVEUR Oui madame?  
 CLIENT Two lemonades, three white coffees and a beer, please.  
 SERVEUR With pleasure, madam.  
 CLIENT Oh and I'll have an orange juice. How much is that?  
 SERVEUR Un instant .... three lemonades, two white coffees and a .....

CLIENT No, no, two lemonades and three white coffees.  
 SERVEUR Of course. 14,50, madame.

*Translate the English into French:*

Customer The bill please.  
 Garçon Oui, alors .... vous avez pris a lemonade, a kir, a café creme. So, that is 6,50.  
 Customer There you are.  
 Garçon Thank you, sir.  
 Customer Goodbye.  
 Garçon Have a good day, sir.  
 2nd customer Waiter!  
 Garçon Oui madame?  
 2nd customer Three lemonades, six coffees and seventeen beers please.  
 Garçon With pleasure.  
 2nd customer Thank you.  
 Garçon At your service.