**Complaining At A Restaurant**

**At Carmen's Bistro, all is not going well. John complains to Kevin, the waiter, about his overdone steak. Tanya complains that her fish is too rare and that the music is too loud.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Kevin | How are we doing? |
| John | Not very well. I ordered my steak **medium rare**, and it's **burnt to a crisp!** |
| Kevin | I'm sorry about that. I can ask our chef to prepare another one. |
| John | Okay, please do that. |
| Kevin | **You bet**. And how's your fish, ma'am? |
| Tanya | It's very rare. |
| Kevin | Would you like me to have the chef put it back in the oven? |
| Tanya | No, I've **lost my appetite for** fish. |
| Kevin | I'd be happy to bring you something else. |
| Tanya | Okay, let me try the stuffed chicken breast. |
| **Ten minutes after the waiter has brought the new meals** |
| Kevin | How are we doing over here? |
| Tanya | I was wondering if you could **turn down the music**. Loud music in restaurants is a **pet peeve** of mine. |
| Kevin | Sure, I'll take care of that. Can I get you another **round of drinks?** |
| John  | No, we're **all set** for now. |
| **The waiter returns after 15 minutes** |
| Kevin | Are you still **working on** your meals? |
| Tanya | I'll need a **doggy bag**. |
| John  | Would you mind **wrapping this up**, too? |
| Kevin  | I'll bring you some containers, and you can **box up** your **leftovers**. **Can I interest you in dessert**? |
| Tanya | I'm **stuffed**. |
| John  | Could you please bring the check? |

**Idioms & Expressions**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Best of the world** | The advantages of two things.Waitressing in the evenings gives Sue the **best of the worlds**; she can attend classed during the day and still earn money. |
| **Can I start you off with?** | Would you like to start your meal with?Welcome to Amici's. **Can I start you off with** some drinks? |
| **Decide on** | To choose."Did you **decide on** a main course yet?" asked the waiter. |
| **Flag down the waiter** | To get the attention of the waiter.You want another glass of wine? Let's **flag down the waiter.** |
| **Hold up** | Delay; long wait.We ordered 20 minutes ago. What's causing the **hold up**? |
| **I'll be right with you** | I'm coming in a minute."**I'll be right with you**" said the waitress when she saw the waving to her. |
| **I'm starving** | I'm very hungry.When we asked Jim why he ordered two steaks, he asked, "**I'm starving**." |
| **In the mood for** | To want; to have an appetite for.Let's go to a seafood restaurant, I'm **in the mood for** fish.  |
| **Known for** | Famous for; having a reputation for.Chicago is **known for** its delicious pizza. |
| **Let's go with** | I'll take; let's proceed with.You recommend the Chardonnay? Okay, **let's go with** that. |
| **Make it two** | I'll have one too; I'll have the same thing (as the other person just ordered)."I'll take a cappuccino." ــــــــ **'Make it two**." |
| **On the house** | Free; paid for by the restaurant.The waitress offered us after-dinner drinks **on the house**. |
| **Packed to the rafters** | Really crowded.Beth's Bistro is always **packed to the rafters** on Saturday nights. If we want to go there, we'd better make reservation. |
| **Pride yourself on** | To be known for; to be especially proud of something.San Francisco **prides itself on** its fine restaurant. |
| **Skip the appetizers** | To not order appetizers.We're not that hungry, so we're going to **skip the appetizers.** |
| **Surf and turf** | A meal containing both meat and seafood.The waiter said, "Tonight, our special is the **surf and turf**. It comes with a lobster tail and a New York strip steak." |