FUNCTION B: ORDERING AT A RESTAURANT

1. **Listen to this typical food menu. Tick your favourites.**

él-muqabbilaat él-baarida	Cold Appetisers	المقبلات الباردة
hommos	ground chickpea and tahiine dip	حمّص
mtabbal	eggplant, yoghut and tahiine dip	متبّل
babaghannuuj	eggplant and pomegranate dip	باباغنّوج
mhammra	red pepper dip	محمّرة
yaalanji	stuffed vine leaves	يالنجي
kébbe nayye	raw minced meat	كبة نيّة
él-muqabbilaat és-saakhne	Hot Appetisers	المقبلات الساخنة
félaafel	deep fried chickpea balls	فلافل
bérᵏk b-jébne	cheese wrapped in pastry	برك بجبنة
bérᵏk b-sébaanekh	spinach wrapped in pastry	برك بسبانخ
bérᵏk b-lahme	mince wrapped in pastry	برك بلحمة
kébbe hamiis	fried meat balls	كبة حميص
kébbe méshwiyye	grilled meat balls	كبة مشوية
bataataa méqliyye	french fries	بطاطا مقليّة
és-salataat	Salads	السلطات
fattuush	mixed salad with vinegar dressing	فتّوش
tabbuuleh	parsley, mint & crushed wheat salad	تبّوله
salatet zeetuun	olive salad	سلطة زيتون
salata khédra	green salad	سلطة خضراء
él-mashaawi	Grills	المشاوي
kabaab	skewered meat	كباب
shaqaf	pieces of meat	شقف
shiish taawuuk	grilled chicken	شيش طاووك
shaawerma	thinly sliced meat or chicken	شاورما
samak	fish	سمك
él-hélwiyyaat	Sweets	الحلويّات
buuza	icecream	بوظة
gaato	cake	كاتو
fawaake	fruit	فواكة
knaafe	traditional Arabic sweet	كنافة

WAYS OF COOKING ➡ There are four main methods of preparing food in Syria:

méshwi, méshwiyye	grilled	مشوي، مشوية
méqli, méqliyye	fried	مقلي، مقلية
masluuq, masluuqa	boiled	مسلوق، مسلوقة
nayy, nayye	raw	ني، نية

I LIKE... ● To talk about what you like, use these expressions:

bhébb...	I like...	...بــحـب
shu béthebb?	What do you (m) like?	شـو بتـحـب ؟
shu béthebbi?	What do you (f) like?	شـو بتـحبّـي ؟
shu béthebbu?	What do you (pl) like?	شـو بتـحبّـوا ؟

for example

bhébb lé-knaafe ktiir	I really like "knaafe"	بـحـبّ الكنـافـة كتيـر

To negate, simply place *maa* مـا before the word, for example

maa bhébb és-samak mnoob   I don't like fish at all   مـا بـحـبّ الـسـمك منـوب

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2. Refer to the menu in the previous exercise and write down the items you ticked.

bhébb _____   بـحـب

_____

Now write down anything you don't like.

maa bhébb _____   مـا بـحـب

_____

WHAT DO YOU THINK? ● A very useful expression is *shu ra'yak?* شـو رأيـك؟ which literally means "what's your opinion" but is commonly used to mean "So, what do you think?" The ending changes as follows, depending on who you are talking to

shu ra'yak?	what do you think? (to a man)	شـو رأيَـك ؟
shu ra'yek?	what do you think? (to a woman)	شـو رأيِـك ؟
shu ra'ykon?	what do you think? (to a group)	شـو رأيكـن ؟

IT'S DELICIOUS ● The adjective *tayyeb* طـيـب (good, kind) is also used to mean "delicious". During the meal if you want to say something is delicious say

tayybe!   طـيـبة!

3. Listen to the conversation and fill in the missing words.

A   *ana bhébb* _____   _____ أنـا بـحـب   أ

shu ra'yek?   شـو رأيـك؟

B   *ana maa bhébb* _____ *ktiir.*   كتيـر. _____ أنـا مـا بـحـب   ب

bhébb _____ .   .._____ بـحـب

_____ *mén ʕand "Apollo"*   "مـن عنـد "ابـولـو _____

_____ *ktiir!*   كتيـر! _____

EATING AND DRINKING ➻ Two verbs useful in a restaurant are

béddi	éshrab	I want to drink	اشرب	بدي
béddak	téshrab	you (m) want to drink	تشرب	بدَك
béddek	téshrabi	you (f) want to drink	تشربي	بدك
béddkon	téshrabu	you (pl) want to drink	تشربوا	بدكن
béddi	aakol	I want to eat	اكل	بدي
béddak	taakol	you (m) want to eat	تاكل	بدَك
béddek	taakli	you (f) want to eat	تاكلي	بدك
béddkon	taaklu	you (pl) want to eat	تاكلوا	بدكن

FIRST THING, LAST THING ➻ There are several ways to say "first" and "last", including

awwal / aakher	first / last	أول / آخر
awwalan / akhiiran	firstly / lastly	أولاً / أخيراً
b-l-awwal / akhiir	at first / last	بالأول / بالآخير
awwal / aakher shi	the first / last thing	أول / آخير شي

ANYTHING ELSE? ➻ Remember the word *gheer* غير when used with an attached pronoun can mean "something else" or "anything else". Compare these expressions

maa fii gheero?	Don't you have anything else?	ما في غيره؟
w gheero?	Would you like something else?	و غيره؟
ayy shi taani?	Would you like anything else?	اي شي تاني؟

4. Listen to the conversation and fill in the missing words.

A *awwal shi béddi éshrab* _____   اول شي بدي اشرب   أ

   w énte shu béddak téshrab?   و انت شو بدك تشرب؟

B *ana bass béddi* _____   أنا بس بدي   ب

A *baɛdeen béddi aakol* _____   بعدين بدي اكل   أ

_____

B _____ *hoon ṭayybe ktiir,*   هون طيبة كتير، _____   ب

   shu ra'yek?   شو رأيك؟

A *mniih. béddak shi taani?*   منيح. بدك شي تاني؟   أ

B *la, haada ktiir.*   لا، هدا كثير.   ب

   bass b-l-akhiir _____   بس بالآخير

A *mniih.* _____   منيح. _____   أ

   w _____ *kamaan.*   و _____ كمان.

EACH, EVERY AND ALL ➤ *kéll* كل when followed by an INDEFINITE SINGULAR noun means "each" or "every", for example

kéll shi	everything, each thing	كل شـي
kéll yoom	every day, each day	كل يـوم
kéll^{e}ktaab	every book, each book	كل كتاب
kéll noog	every type, each type	كل نـوع

If *kéll* كل is followed by a DEFINITE noun (singular or plural) it means "all", such as

kéll él-ashyaa'	all the things	كل الأشـياء
kéll él-yoom	all day	كل اليـوم
kéll lé-ktaab	all the book	كل الكتـاب
kéll él-kétob	all the books	كل الكتـب

Also when you attach pronouns to *kéll* كل the meaning is "all", for example

kéllna (béddna)	all of us (want)	كلنا (بـدنا)
kéllkon (béddkon)	all of you (want)	كلكن (بـدكن)
kéllon (béddon)	all of them (want)	كلهن (بـدهن)

Another common way of expressing the same idea is

kéll waahed ménna (béddo)	each of us (wants)	كل واحد مـنـا (بـده)
kéll waahed ménkon (béddo)	each of you (wants)	كل واحد مـنكن (بـده)
kéll waahed ménon (béddo)	each of them (wants)	كل واحد مـنـهن (بـده)

5. **Number the lines of this conversation between a diner and waiter so it makes sense.**

A	*gala geeni.*	علـى عيـنـي.	أ
B	*w b-sérga, néhna méstageliin.*	و بـسرعـة. نـحـنا مـستـعـجـلـين.	ب
A	*ahlan w sahlan. shu bétriidu?*	أهلاً و سـهلاً. شـو بـتـريـدوا؟	أ
B	*tayyeb, shu gandkon él-yoom?*	طيّـب، شـو عنـدكن اليـوم؟	ب
A	*tékramu.*	تكـرمـوا.	أ
B	*٤ qanaani garaq, iza bétriid.*	٤ قناني عرق إذا بتـريد.	ب
A	*nagam, ana l-liiste!*	نـعـم، أنا اللـستة!	أ
B	*maashi, béddna maaza kaamle w samak iza bétriid.*	مـاشـي، بـدّنا مـازة كامـلـة و سـمك إذا بتـريـد.	ب
A	*fii kéll shi.* *és-samak él-yoom tayyeb ^{e}ktiir.*	فـي كل شـي. السـمك اليـوم طيّـب كتيـر.	أ
B	*fii gandkon liiste lé-l-ak^{é}l?*	فـي عنـدكن لسـتة للأكل؟	ب

MORE PLEASE ➡ There are other common ways to ask for something politely: by adding

law samaht	...please (to a man)	لو سمحت
law samahti	...please (to a woman)	لو سمحتي
law samahtu	...please (to a group)	لو سمحتوا

or

mén fadlak	...please (to a man)	من فضلَك
mén fadlek	...please (to a woman)	من فضلِك
mén fadlkon	...please (to a group)	من فضلكن

after the object you are requesting. *law samaht* لو سمحت literally means "if you permit". These expressions can be used interchangeably with *iza bétriid* إذا بتريد . Note the helping vowel in *mén fadlkon* to avoid three consonants in a row.

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6. Complete this conversation between a customer and a waiter.

A *ahlan w sahlan. kam shakh̊ s?*   أهلاً و سهلاً. كم شحص؟ أ

B ٣ _____.   _____ ٣ ب

A *tfaddalu. shu bétriidu?*   شو بتريدوا؟ أ

B *awwal shi, biira _____ samaht.*   اول شي، بيرة _____ سمحت. ب

A *kéllkon _____ biira?*   كلكن _____ بيرة؟ أ

B *la ɛafwan, bass qaniinteen biira,*   لا، عفواً، بس قنينتين بيرة، ب

   huwwe béddo mayy.   هو بده مي.

A _____ *ɛeeni.*   _____ عيني. أ

B *baɛdeen _____ hommos w*   و بعدين _____ حمّص و ب

   mhammra w yaalanji w   محمّرة ويالنجي و

   fattuush iza _____.   فتوش إذا _____ .

A _____ *shi taani?*   _____ شي تاني؟ أ

B *ee, shiish taawuuk ____ kabaab*   ايه، شيش طاووك _____ كباب ب

   ____ *shaawerma ____ samak méshwi.*   _____ شاورما _____ سمك مشوي.

A *bétriidu shi _____?*   بتريدوا شي _____ ؟ أ

B *bass fawaake w knaafe*   بس فواكة و كنافة ب

   law samaht.   لو سمحت.

PAYING THE BILL ◄◦ You have already learnt one way to ask for the bill. A more polite way of asking for it is

mumken lé-ḥsaab iza betriid   ممكن الحساب إذا بتريد

may I have the bill please

In some restaurants and cafes however, you might not receive a written bill. In this case you simply ask the waiter for the total as follows

A   *qaddeesh lé-ḥsaab?*   قديش الحساب؟

B   *lé-ḥsaab\٦. leera.*   الحساب ١٦. ليرة.

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7. **Write six numbers between 25 and 10,000 in Arabic**

a. _____   b. _____   c. _____

d. _____   e. _____   f. _____

Work with a teacher or classmate. When your partner asks for the bill read one of the numbers while they write it down. Repeat until you have used all your numbers.

8. **Prepare a short dialogue between a waiter and diner. Include:**

- greetings

- ordering drinks and requesting the menu

- discussing available dishes and ordering

- receiving the order

- solving a problem or complaining about something

- requesting and paying the bill

THANKING YOUR HOST ◄◦ At a restaurant you would simply say *shukran* شكراً upon finishing the meal or leaving the restaurant. When you are dining at someone's house however, at the end of the meal you should say to the host

daayme	may God always provide food	دايمة

to which they would reply

ṣaḥteen	may it give you health	صحتين

to which you would then say

çala qalbak	and you (lit. on your heart)	على قلبك

If someone invites you to eat something but you wish to decline you say

ṣaḥteen	(no thank you but)	صحتين
	may it give you health	