



Intermediate Lesson S1

Just Tell Him in English that You Want the Usual

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English

Teddy So how does it feel to be back?
Drew I see some changes here and there, but overall it's the same. Feels like I'm in college again every time I come back. I bet the coffee tastes the same too. They knew me here; all I had to say was "the usual."
Sales Rep What can I get you?
Teddy I'll have a triple venti decaf nonfat latte with a shot of sugar-free vanilla and just a tiny bit of whipped cream in my cup... Drew, this one's on me.
Drew ...uhh...
Teddy Drew? Don't tell me you've forgotten how to order coffee!
Drew Don't be ridiculous...I...I'll have what he's having, thanks.
Sales Rep Okay, your total is \$9.35.
Teddy Here's a ten.
Sales Rep Okay, \$0.65 is your change. Sir, your drinks will be ready over there.
Teddy You've forgotten, haven't you?
Drew No, your usual just happened to be my usual.

Vocabulary

English	Definition	Class
overall	in general, as a whole	adverb
college	school after high school where a higher degree can be obtained	noun
to taste	to be able to sense flavor with the tongue	verb
triple	three times more, three parts or things	adjective
nonfat	without fat	adjective
shot	small amount of drink that is usually strong	noun
decaf	coffee without caffeine	noun
tiny	very small	adjective
change	money returned when a payment exceeds the amount due	noun

Vocabulary Sample Sentences



He looked at the overall picture as opposed to the details.

The overall outcome was good.

He studied physics in college.

I went to a college far from home.

I love anything that tastes like chocolate.

The food at that restaurant tastes terrible!

The code is two, triple eight, four.

A triple jump in figure skating is always exciting to see.

The nonfat chocolate was even more tempting.

He always buys nonfat milk.

The coffee has two shots of espresso.

He had three tequila shots in a row.

Decaf won't help me stay awake.

She drinks decaf after five.

There's a tiny hole in your sweater.

The tiny turtle swam away.

Here you go, keep the change!

I forgot to get my change from the cashier.

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

When you are a regular customer at a restaurant or cafe and you always order the same thing, sooner or later the workers will remember who you are. Once they do, instead of repeating the same order all the time, you can use the phrase "the usual," meaning that you're ordering the same thing as usual.

Teddy says "here's a ten" in the dialogue, which implies "here's a ten dollar bill." Calling a bill in a short form by its monetary value is a common thing to do, and you'll hear this from time to time with people when handling cash. Remember, don't drop the determiner "a" when using this phrase, because the "a" refers to "the bill."

If somebody says "this one's on me," the person is saying that he or she will pay. You can use this phrase when you offer to pay for a friend's meal or drink, just as Teddy does in the dialogue.

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson Is Units of Money.

"Okay, \$0.65 is your change. Sir, your drinks will be ready over there."

The units of money we use in the United States are dollars and cents. One hundred cents is equal to a dollar. The coffee came to a total of nine dollars and thirty-five cents.

Cents come in coin form, and each value also has another name.

For Example:

Value	Coin
one cent	"penny"
five cents	"nickel"
ten cents	"dime"
twenty-five cents	"quarter"

A fifty-cent coin and one-dollar coin do exist and you can use them, but you will see the above coins more frequently than these. However, in Canada, the Canadian dollar coin is common, and we call it a "loonie."

Banknotes come in dollars and the following are circulated:

- One dollar
- Five dollars
- Ten dollars
- Twenty dollars
- Fifty dollars
- One hundred dollars

Other bills do exist; however, they are either not as popular or the larger values have become outdated due to electronic transactions.



When saying prices, it is common to not say dollar and cent. In other words, we can say \$9.35 as "nine thirty-five." Also, a common word that replaces the word dollar is "buck." This is slang but we often use it with familiar company.

Also, be aware that if you do use a bill that is more than twenty dollars, in some cases the store person might check the bill to determine whether it's real.

Cultural Insight

American Coffee Brewed Especially for You

If you don't know already, Americans love coffee. Although statistics show that Europeans have a higher coffee consumption than Americans, still, a large coffee culture exists and coffee shops are on every corner of a busy city. Accompanying the popularity come different types of coffee. Ranging from the type of milk to the amount of espresso to the size, coffee shops are very creative in an attempt to personalize and cater to everyone's taste.