

LESSON 8

Dinner



poultry chicken turkey beef pork lamb
chops ribs roast beef steak lettuce
green peppers onions radishes mushrooms
arugula tomatoes sprouts olive oil
vinegar potatoes home fries
fruit coffee liqueur berries nuts

The evening meal – usually called dinner, but sometimes called **supper** – is the biggest meal of the day. In a formal meal, or at a restaurant, there may be several **courses**. Many people like to begin with an alcoholic drink. Then comes the first course, an appetizer, which may be one of many small dishes or a soup. Next, there is a salad. Then comes the main course (sometimes called an **entrée**) and, finally, something sweet, the **dessert**. The main course is often a meat. The principal kinds of meat eaten by Americans and Canadians are poultry (chicken and turkey), beef, pork, and lamb. Chicken and turkey are the most popular. For those who like chicken, some prefer the light meat (breast) and some prefer the dark meat (wings, legs, and thighs). Among the various cuts of beef (ribs, roasts, and steaks), most people's favorite is a steak. The popular cuts of pork and lamb are chops, ribs, and roasts.

The main ingredient of most salads is some type of lettuce. Green peppers, onions, radishes, mushrooms, arugula, tomatoes, and sprouts are other common ingredients. A salad **dressing** is mixed with the salad. There are many kinds of dressing: olive oil and vinegar, Italian, French, Russian, Thousand Island, and blue cheese, to name a few.

The main course in the typical steak dinner consists of steak, potatoes, and another vegetable. Some people like their steak cooked thoroughly, or **well-done**, and some people like to have it just slightly cooked, or **rare**. Somewhere between well done and rare is **medium**. A typical question at a restaurant is, "How do you want your steak?"

There is also a choice of different types of potatoes: baked, mashed, French fries, or home fries. Baked potatoes are baked in the oven in their skins. Mashed potatoes are first **peeled** – the skin is taken off – and then boiled. Then they are mashed, and some milk, butter, and salt are added. French fries are potatoes cut into strips and **deep fried**. And home fries are slices or small chunks of potatoes fried in a pan.

Finally, there is dessert. There are many kinds of desserts, but two favorites are apple pie and ice cream. Sometimes it is too difficult to decide on one or the other, so the ice cream is served on top of the pie, as pie à la mode. Today many people, thinking about their weight, prefer a more modest dessert like frozen yogurt or fruit.

The evening meal often ends with a cup of coffee – regular or **decaf** (decaffeinated) for those who are kept awake at night by caffeine. At most restaurants, it is acceptable to take home food that has not been eaten. The server can bring you a "**doggy bag**," which is really a paper box for your leftovers. (466)

I. Match the phrase on the left with a phrase on the right to form a sentence.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Supper is _____ | A. is neither rare nor well done. |
| 2. Dinner is served _____ | B. of salad dressings. |
| 3. French fries _____ | C. you remove the skin. |
| 4. The last course is _____ | D. a decaf, please. |
| 5. The main course _____ | E. is not cooked very long. |
| 6. There are many kinds _____ | F. an evening meal. |
| 7. A rare steak _____ | G. in three courses. |
| 8. A well-done steak _____ | H. for a doggy bag. |
| 9. A medium steak _____ | I. is cooked longer than a medium. |
| 10. To peel a potato _____ | J. the dessert. |
| 11. I'll have _____ | K. is called the entrée. |
| 12. Let's ask the server _____ | L. are deep fried in a basket. |

II. Fill in the blanks with a form of a key word.

supper dessert rare deep fried course dressing
medium decaf entrée well-done peel doggy bag

- I want my steak _____ .
- I want mine to be _____ . The inside should be quite red.
- _____ - well means not too well done, and not really _____, either.
- I ate only half my steak; I need a _____ .
- I'll have the oil and vinegar _____ .
- At our house _____ is usually at six o'clock.
- When I make home fries, I don't _____ them.
- Do you have _____ coffee?
- To _____ something you need a large pot.
- Supper may not have three _____, and it is very often just a casserole.
 We don't call the casserole an _____, and sometimes there is no appetizer
 or _____ .

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III. Fill on the blanks with a form of a key word.

1. I'm sorry. This isn't _____ - _____. Please cook it some more.
2. And mine is definitely not _____. Please cook it some more.
3. This one is not _____. It is medium.
4. For _____ this evening, something quick and easy? A can of baked beans?
5. We had a full-_____ dinner at the Inn last night. We had soup as an appetizer, the _____ was a delicious steak, and the _____ was very nice tapioca pudding.
6. I ate everything; no need for a _____.
7. The house _____ for our salad was an olive oil and vinegar.
8. We don't have French fries because our _____ isn't working.
9. This is going to be expensive. If we can't pay we may have to _____ potatoes.

IV. Fill in the blanks with a form of a key word.

Ed: Charles and Mary should be coming soon.

Edna: Everything's ready. Potatoes are _____ and mashed, the appetizers are on the table with the salad _____. Two pies for _____.

Ed: They were expecting a simple _____, but it will be a three-_____ dinner.

Edna: Mais oui! And the _____ will be the Jolly Butcher's best steak. And nothing is _____. That will make Mary happy; you know how she dislikes fried food.

Ed: And Mary likes her steak _____ - _____, Charles is the opposite, very _____, and ours of course is neither _____ nor well-done, a perfect _____.

Edna: Remember, Ed, Charles may ask for a _____. He always does.