

The Café Confidence Kit

English for the life you actually live.

Walk into any café, order exactly what you want, fix a mix-up with a smile, and understand your bill – all in English. This free pack gives you the real words, real sentences, and real confidence to do it today.



You will learn

How to order drinks and food, customise your order, ask the price, and politely correct a mistake.



What's inside

Key phrases → Real dialogue
→ Practice tasks → Model answers. One page at a time, no rush.



For you

Made for Spanish-speaking adults and older teens at A1–A2 level. Spanish glosses included throughout.

Welcome to the Café

Imagine this: you walk into a cosy café. The smell of fresh coffee fills the room. You look at the menu and... you know exactly what to say. That is the goal of this pack. By the end, ordering in English will feel easy and natural – even fun.

Your 3 goals for this pack

1 Order and customise

Ask for drinks and food the way you like them – with oat milk, without sugar, small or large.

2 Understand prices

Ask *How much is it?* and understand the total on your bill.

3 Correct a mistake politely

If the café gets your order wrong, fix it kindly and confidently.

How to use this pack

Read each page in order. Try the tasks yourself before you look at the answers. There are no wrong attempts – only good practice. Pages 3 and 4 teach you the language. Page 5 is your practice space. Page 6 is for speaking and writing. Page 7 has all the answers.

A mini scenario to get you started

Sofia walks into a café. She says: **"Could I have a medium coffee with oat milk, to go, please?"** The person at the counter smiles and says: **"That's £3. Here you go!"** Simple. Warm. Confident. You can do this too.



Important: This pack teaches social English for café ordering. It does not give allergy or dietary safety advice. Always check with staff about ingredients if you have allergies.

Key Phrases: How to Order

There are two very natural ways to ask for something in a café in English. Both are polite. Both are correct. You can use either one.

Could I have...? → ¿Podría tener...?

This is polite and a little more formal. It is perfect when you are asking a stranger for something.

Examples: *Could I have a tea, please?* · *Could I have a large coffee?*

I'd like... → Quisiera... / Me gustaría...

This is warm and natural. "I'd like" is short for "I would like." It is very common in British cafés.

Examples: *I'd like a sandwich, please.* · *I'd like a small tea.*

Sizes & Customising Your Order

Most cafés offer three sizes. Say the size *before* the drink: **small / medium / large** → *pequeño / mediano / grande*. Then add your customisation after the drink name.

with oat milk

con leche de avena
I'd like a coffee **with**
oat milk.

without sugar

sin azúcar
Could I have a tea
without sugar?

to have here

para tomar aquí
A sandwich, **to have**
here, please.

to go

para llevar
A large coffee, **to go**,
please.

Grammar Spotlight: Countable vs. Uncountable

Coffee = countable *when it means a serving*

When you order in a café, **coffee** is countable because you are asking for one cup – one serving. So you say "**a coffee**" or "**two coffees**."

- *Could I have **a coffee**?*
- *Two **coffees**, please.*

Think of it like un café in Spanish – you use the article because it's one specific thing.

Milk = uncountable

Milk is a liquid. We do not count it in the same way. You **cannot** say "a milk" or "two milks" normally. Instead, say:

- *With **some** milk, please.*
- *With **oat milk**, please.*

In Spanish: leche works similarly – un poco de leche, not una leche (unless ordering at a Spanish café counter as a fixed expression!).

A Morning at Maple Café ☀️

Read this complete conversation. Notice how the phrases from page 3 appear in a real situation – including a small mix-up and a polite correction. You will practise these same patterns on the next page.

🗣️ The Full Dialogue

Barista: Good morning! What can I get for you?

Customer (Sofia): Good morning! Could I have a medium tea, please? To have here.

Barista: Of course. Anything else?

Sofia: Yes – I'd like a sandwich, too, please.

Barista: Great. That's a medium tea and one sandwich. Is that everything?

Sofia: Yes, thank you. How much is it?

Barista: That's £2 for the tea and £5 for the sandwich – £7 in total.

Sofia: Perfect. Thank you!

– A few minutes later –

Barista: Here's your order. One coffee and one sandwich!

Sofia: Oh – I'm sorry, I think there's a small mistake. I ordered tea, not coffee. Could you change it, please?

Barista: Oh, I'm so sorry about that! Of course – I'll bring your tea right away.

Sofia: Thank you so much. I appreciate it!



🔍 What to notice

- Sofia uses **Could I have...?** for the first item and **I'd like...** for the second – both are perfect.
- She asks **How much is it?** before paying – natural and polite.
- When there's a mistake, she starts with **"I'm sorry"** – even though it isn't her fault! This is very common in British English.
- She says **"I ordered tea, not coffee"** – clear, direct, and kind.

The Menu at Maple Café ☕

All prices in this pack are fictional examples used for practice only.

☕ Coffee £3 <i>un café</i>	☕ Tea £2 <i>un té</i>	🥪 Sandwich £5 <i>un sándwich</i>
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📝 **Language note:** "To go" and "to take away" mean the same thing – you want to take your order out of the café. In the US you usually hear "to go"; in the UK, "to take away" is more common. Both are understood everywhere. (*Para llevar – both phrases work!*)

Your Turn – Practice Tasks

Try each task on your own first. Write your answers in the space provided. There are no tricks here – just good practice. Check your answers on page 7 when you are ready.

1**Choose the correct article**

Complete the sentence: "I'd like ____ tea, please."

Choose: *a* / *an* / *the*

Your answer: _____

2**Choose the correct word**

Complete the sentence: "Could I ____ a coffee?"

Choose: *have* / *having*

Your answer: _____

3**Calculate the total**

You order: **one coffee (£3) + one sandwich (£5).**

How much is the total?

Your answer: £ _____

4**Write the phrase**

You want no sugar in your drink. What do you say to the barista?

Write a full sentence: _____

5**Write a polite correction**

The barista brings you a coffee, but you ordered tea. Write what you say – be polite and clear!

Your answer: _____

6**Translate into English**

A Spanish-speaking friend asks: **¿Es para llevar?**

How would a barista in an English café ask this question?

Your answer: _____



Tip: For tasks 4 and 5, there is more than one correct way to answer. What matters most is that your sentence is clear and polite. A model answer is waiting for you on page 7!

Speaking & Writing Practice



Speaking Task: Role-play at the café

Practise this out loud – alone, with a friend, or in front of a mirror. Use the scaffold below to build your order. Remember: there is no perfect answer. The goal is to speak!

Step 1 – Greet

"Good morning / Good afternoon!"

Step 2 – Order

"Could I have a [size] [drink], please?"

or

"I'd like a [size] [drink], please."

Step 3 – Customise

"With [oat milk / soy milk]."

"Without sugar, please."

Step 4 – Here or to go?

"To have here, please." / "To go, please."

Step 5 – Ask the price

"How much is it?"



Speaking Success Checklist

- ☐ I used "Could I have...?" or "I'd like..."
- ☐ I said the size before the drink
- ☐ I added a customisation (milk or sugar)
- ☐ I said "to have here" or "to go"
- ☐ I asked "How much is it?"
- ☐ I was polite and I smiled 😊



Writing Task: A short message

Your English friend is going to a café to pick up your order. Write them a short message (3–5 sentences) telling them exactly what you want. Include: the drink, the size, how you want it (with/without something), and whether it is to go or to have here.

Use this planning space first:

My drink: _____

My size: _____

My customisation: _____

Here or to go?: _____

Now write your message here:



A little meme moment



Me, practising my order for 10 minutes at home:

"Could I have a medium oat milk coffee to go, please?"



Me, at the café counter:

"One... coffee... yes. The medium. Thank you."

Language note: Both versions communicate! But with the full phrase, you also get exactly what you want. That is why practice matters – and why you are already doing great. (*¡Ya lo estás haciendo muy bien!*)

Answer Key

Here are the answers for every task on page 5, plus model responses for the speaking and writing tasks. Remember: for open tasks, your answer does not have to match these words exactly. Focus on the idea and the structure.

1

Answer: a

"I'd like **a** tea, please."

We use **a** because *tea* starts with a consonant sound. We use **an** before a vowel sound (e.g. *an orange juice*). Tea is countable here because it means one serving.

2

Answer: have

"Could I **have** a coffee?"

After *could I*, we always use the base form of the verb – **have**, not *having*. Compare: *Could I **sit** here?* / *Could I **see** the menu?*

3

Answer: £8

£3 (coffee) + £5 (sandwich) = **£8 in total**.

A barista might say: "*That's £8, please.*" or "*Eight pounds, please.*"

4

Model answer: Without sugar, please.

You could also say: "*No sugar, please.*" or "*Could I have it without sugar?*" – all are natural and polite. *Sin azúcar, por favor* is the direct Spanish equivalent.

5

Model answer: Sorry, I ordered tea. Could you change it, please?

You might also say: "*Excuse me – I think there's a small mistake. I ordered tea, not coffee.*" Starting with "*sorry*" or "*excuse me*" is very common in British English, even when the mistake is not yours. It keeps the tone warm and avoids awkwardness.

6

Answer: Is it to go? / Is it to take away?

Both are correct! In the UK, "**to take away**" is more common. In the US, "**to go**" is standard. You may also hear: "*Are you having it here or taking away?*" The phrasing varies by region, so don't worry if you hear something slightly different – the meaning is the same.

Model Responses: Speaking & Writing

Speaking model

"Good morning! Could I have a large coffee with oat milk, to go, please? Oh – and without sugar. How much is it?"

Notice the natural order: greeting → order → size → drink → customisation → here or to go → price. You do not have to say everything perfectly. Even two or three of these phrases together is a great success!

Writing model

"Hi! Could you get me a medium tea, please? Without sugar – and with a little oat milk if they have it. I'd like it to go. Oh, and a sandwich too, please! It should be about £7 in total. Thank you so much!"

This model uses both *Could I have...?* and *I'd like...*, includes customisation, mentions the price, and ends warmly. Your version just needs to be clear and polite – it doesn't have to look exactly like this.

Quick Recap ✨



Order confidently

Use *Could I have...?* or *I'd like...* + size + drink + customisation.



Understand prices

Ask *How much is it?* and add up your items. Tea £2 + Coffee £3 + Sandwich £5.



Fix mistakes kindly

Say *Sorry, I ordered [X], not [Y]. Could you change it, please?*



You did it!

You completed the Café Confidence Kit. Go practise in a real café – you are ready! ¡Tú puedes!

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