

MODULE 6: FOOD, PLEASE!

Listening Skills Notes

Listening Goals

- Identify specific food items mentioned in spoken conversations.
- Listen for plural sound markers to distinguish quantities.
- Catch key details in restaurant dialogue (e.g., tracking what a customer orders).
- Recognize transition words and sentence starters in spoken contexts.

1. Listening for Plural Sound Markers

When listening to native speakers, the difference between a single item and multiple items often comes down to a tiny sound at the end of the word. Train your ears to catch these three distinct ending sounds:

The /s/ Sound

Usually follows voiceless consonants (like **t** or **p**).

- *Listen for:* Carrots**s**, cups**s**, plates**s**.

The /z/ Sound

Usually follows voiced consonants or vowels (like **g**, **n**, or **d**).

- *Listen for:* Eggs**s**, noodles**s**, burgers**s**.

The /ɪz/ Sound

Creates an extra syllable, usually after sizzling sounds (like **sh**, **ch**, **s**, or **z**).

- *Listen for:* Peaches**s**, sandwiches**s**, boxes**s**.

2. Tracking Restaurant Dialogue

In listening exams or real-life conversations, you need to listen for specific roles to understand who is speaking and what they want.

Key Phrases from the Waiter

Listen for polite offers and questions:

- "What would you like to eat/drink?"
- "Would you like anything else?"

Key Phrases from the Customer

Listen for ordering phrases and choices:

- *"I'd like some noodles, please."*
- *"Can I have a glass of lemonade?"*
- **"No, thanks."** (Listen closely for rejections so you don't accidentally count that food item!)

3. Strategy: Filtering Out the "Distractors"

Listening tracks love to trick you by mentioning multiple foods, but only one is the correct answer.

Real Exam Example

The Dialogue:

Waiter: "Would you like some chocolate cake?"

Customer: "I love chocolate, but **no, thanks**. I'll just have **some cheese and crackers**."

The Lesson: Don't write down the first food you hear! Listen all the way to the end of the sentence to see if the speaker says *yes* or *no*.

Listening Success Criteria

- ☐ I can tell if a food is countable or uncountable just by listening to the verb used (*"There is..."* vs. *"There are..."*).
- ☐ I can hear the difference between *sandwich* (one) and *sandwiches* (more than one).
- ☐ I can accurately identify what a customer successfully orders in a restaurant audio track.
- ☐ I don't get tricked by "distractor" foods that the speaker rejects.