

Lesson Notes № 12

# Ordering food at a restaurant in Ukrainian



Link to audio: [ukrainianlessons.com/episode12](https://ukrainianlessons.com/episode12)



“Їжа — food — is an important part of any culture. Ukrainian food is very diverse, and you can enjoy it for cheap in fast-food restaurants.

In this lesson, I want you to try to hear the conversation between me and the cashier at the food court as realistic as it is — through the sounds of people eating.

Do not forget to check the extended list of main Ukrainian dishes on the last page.



## Dialogue



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| – Дайте, будь ласка, борщ.   | – Please give me a borscht.  |
| – З сметаною?  | – With sour cream?   |
| – Так, з сметаною.   | – Yes, with sour cream.  |
| – І картопляне пюре, і котлету по-київськи, будь ласка. ... Дякую. | – Also, mashed potatoes and a chicken Kyiv please. ... Thank you.      |
| – Один борщ, одне пюре, одна котлета і компот.                     | – One borscht, one mashed potato, one meat chop, and a kompot (juice). |
| – Так.   | – Yes.   |
| – Разом – сорок шість п'ятдесят.                                   | – Together — 46.50.  |
| – Можна заплатити картою?  | – Can I pay by card?   |
| – Так, звичайно.   | – Yes, of course.  |
| – Дякую!   | – Thank you!   |
| – Смачного!  | – Enjoy your meal!   |

## Дайте, будь ласка, борщ

Last time we learned some ways to order. Here we have one more:

### Дайте, будь ласка...

Please give me...

Of course, you can use it not only while ordering things, but also when you want a person to give you something. However, be aware that it is a formal way. The informal “please give me” is:

### Дай, будь ласка...

Therefore, here are four ways to order food or a drink in Ukrainian:

- **Можна, будь ласка, борщ?**  
Can I have a borscht?
- **Картопляне пюре, будь ласка.**  
Mashed potatoes, please.
- **Я буду компот, будь ласка.**  
I will have a kompot (a traditional Ukrainian juicy beverage).
- **Дайте, будь ласка, котлету.**  
Give me a meatball (or a meat chop), please.



For all these expressions, we need the accusative case of an object that is different only for feminine nouns:

- Дайте, будь ласка, котлétу.
- Можна, будь ласка, кáву?
- Я б́уду рíбу.

### З сметано́ю?

**Сметáна** — sour cream — is an important part of the Ukrainian food culture. We usually eat borscht with **сметáна**. So, if you want sour cream in your meal, say:

**з сметáною**

If you do not want it, say:

**без сметáни**

### Один борщ і одне пюре

In Ukrainian, the numeral **о́дин** is used in all genders, even in plural. So, depending on the gender of a noun, choose your **о́дин**:

о́дин	борщ, суп	<i>masculine</i>
о́дна	котлéта, рíба	<i>feminine</i>
о́дне	пюре́	<i>neuter</i>
о́дні	óвочі	<i>plural</i>

### Можна заплатити карткою?

If you want to pay by card in Ukraine, first ask:

**Можна заплáтити кáрткою?**

It means “Can I pay by card?” or “Is it possible to pay by card?”. Again, the word **мóжна** is very versatile.

### Смачного!

This is a very nice phrase to say to any person who is eating near you:

**Смачно́го!**

Literally, it means: “Have a tasty one!”





## Practice

Here is the practice exercise from the podcast.

1. one soup — **о́дін суп**
2. one borscht — **о́дін борщ**
3. one fish — **о́дна ри́ба**
4. one Chicken Kyiv —  
**о́дна котле́та по-ки́ївськи**
5. one (portion of) mashed potatoes —  
**о́дне картопля́не пюре́**
6. one (portion of) vegetables — **о́дні о́вочі**

## Їдальні

In the episode, I told you a bit about the types of restaurants in Ukraine that serve Ukrainian food for cheap. The names of those restaurants can be:

**рестора́н швидко́го харчува́ння**

**буфе́т**

**їда́льня**

There are different restaurants like this, but I mentioned two chains:

**«Пуза́та Ха́та»**

**«Час по́їсти»**



## Bonus exercise

**Put the correct forms of the nouns like in the example.** For the new words, go to the bonus vocabulary section.

1. 1 ри́ба о́дна ри́ба
2. 1 стейк \_\_\_\_\_
3. 1 овочі \_\_\_\_\_
4. 1 салат \_\_\_\_\_
5. 1 пюре \_\_\_\_\_
6. 1 вареники \_\_\_\_\_
7. 1 компот \_\_\_\_\_
8. 1 смажена картопля \_\_\_\_\_
9. 1 сирники \_\_\_\_\_
10. 1 котлета по-ки́ївськи \_\_\_\_\_



## Bonus Exercise 1-11 Answers

1. Можна, будь ласка, **каву**?
2. Я буду зелений **чай**, будь ласка.
3. Червоне **вино**, будь ласка.
4. Я буду **горілку**, будь ласка.
5. Можна, будь ласка, **молоко**?
6. Я буду біле **вино**, будь ласка.
7. Можна, будь ласка, **воду**.
8. Яблучний **сік**, будь ласка.





## Key Vocabulary 1-12

борщ	borscht (traditional Ukrainian red beet soup)
котлѐта по-київськи	chicken Kyiv (chicken fillet with butter inside)
котлѐта	meatball
картопляне пюре	mashed potatoes
компѐт	traditional Ukrainian sweet beverage made out of fruits and berries
сметана	sour cream
– з сметаною	– with sour cream
– без сметани	– without sour cream
Можна заплатити картою?	Can I pay by card?
звичайно	of course
Смачного!	Enjoy your meal!
суп	soup
салат	salad
риба	fish
овочі	vegetables
один, одна, одне, одні	one ( <i>masculine, feminine, neuter, plural</i> )



## Bonus Vocabulary

рис	rice
грѐчка	buckwheat (common side dish in Ukraine)
смажена картопля	fried potatoes
варена картопля	boiled potatoes
ку́рка	chicken
стейк	steak
варѐники	traditional Ukrainian dumplings
деруні	potato pancakes
млинці	pancakes
сі́рники	cheese pancakes (Ukrainian-style cheesecakes)

