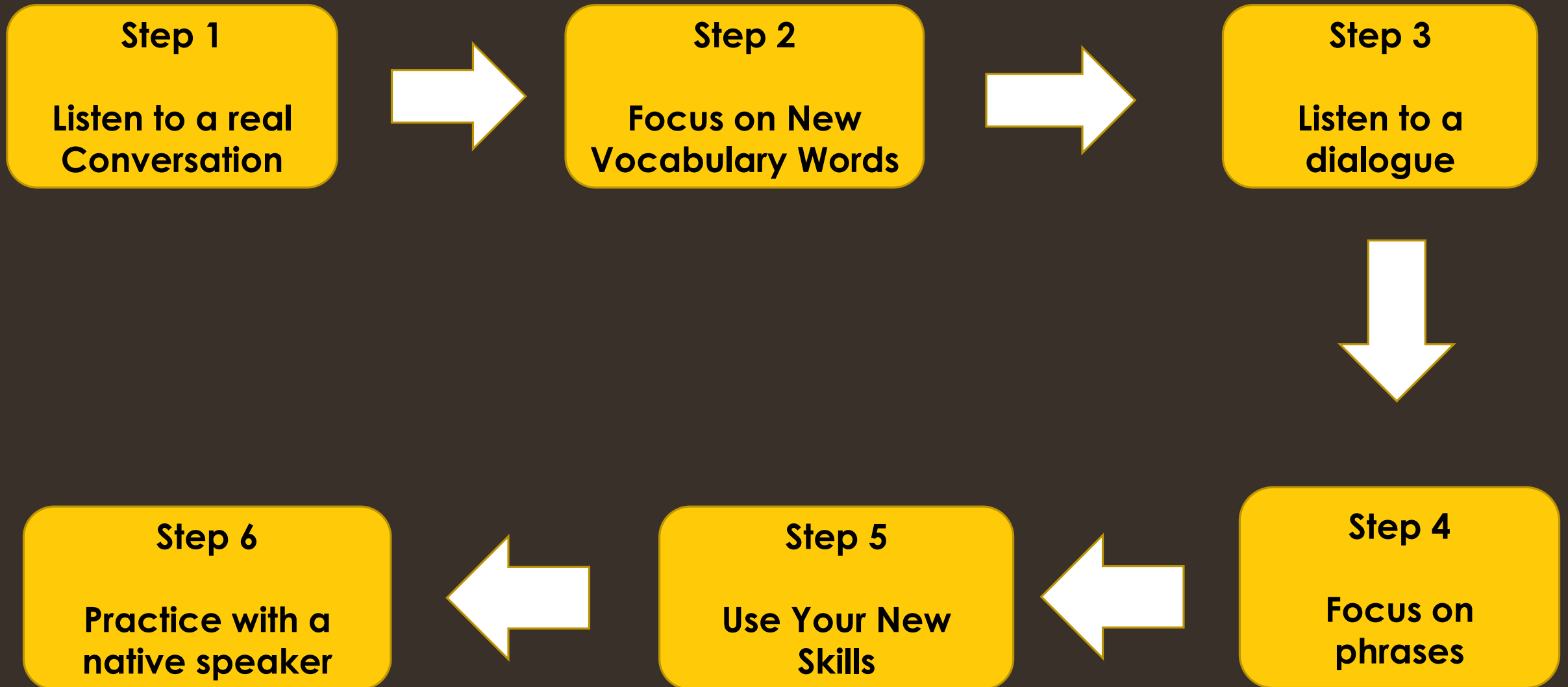




# How to Order Coffee in the United States

## A Vocabulary Lesson

# Our Method



# Step 1: How to Be a Coffee Drinker in the US



**Please listen to Audio Step 1- How to Be a Coffee Drinker in the US**

**In this conversation, listen to Molly and Susan discuss cultural norms and vocabulary words for ordering coffee in the United States.**

**Please view Transcript Step 1-How to Be a Coffee Drinker in the US**

## Step 2: Focus on New Vocabulary Words

**"I'm gonna  
(going to)  
have a  
(\_\_\_\_)"**

**"I'd like a  
\_\_\_\_"**

**Black  
coffee**

**A splash of  
\_\_\_\_**

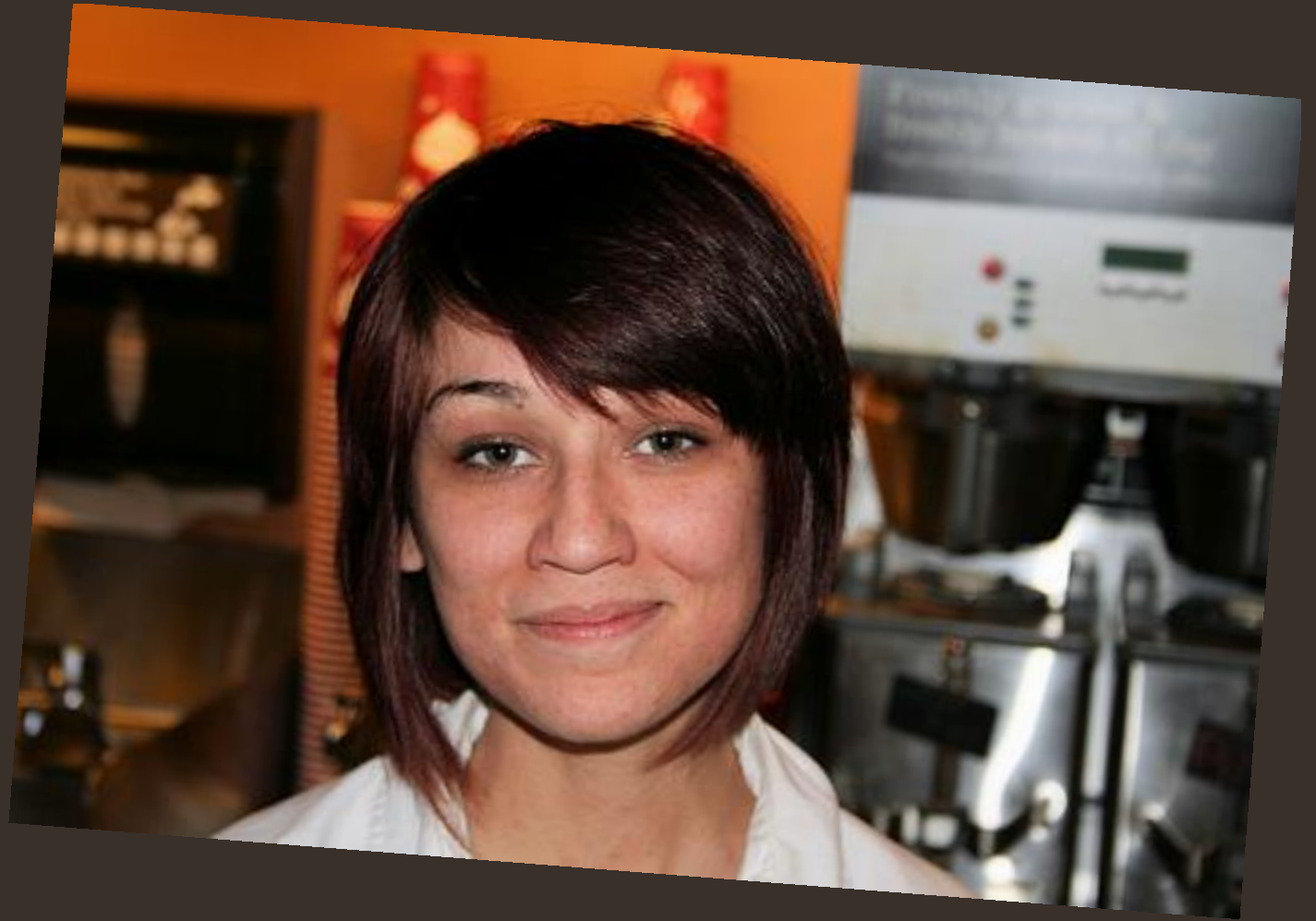
**"Can I get  
a (\_\_\_\_)?"**

**"Could I  
please have  
(\_\_\_\_)"**

**Sweetened**

**Decaf  
(decaffeinated)**

**“Can I get a  
\_\_\_\_\_?”**



**This is a very casual way of ordering food or drink. It is not polite, but it's also not rude. It can be used in any casual restaurant or café.**

***“Can I get a large iced coffee with room for milk?”***



**“I’m gonna  
(going to )  
have a \_\_\_\_.”**



**This is also very casual. It can be used in a fast-paced ordering situation.**

***“I’m gonna (going to) have a shot of espresso.***

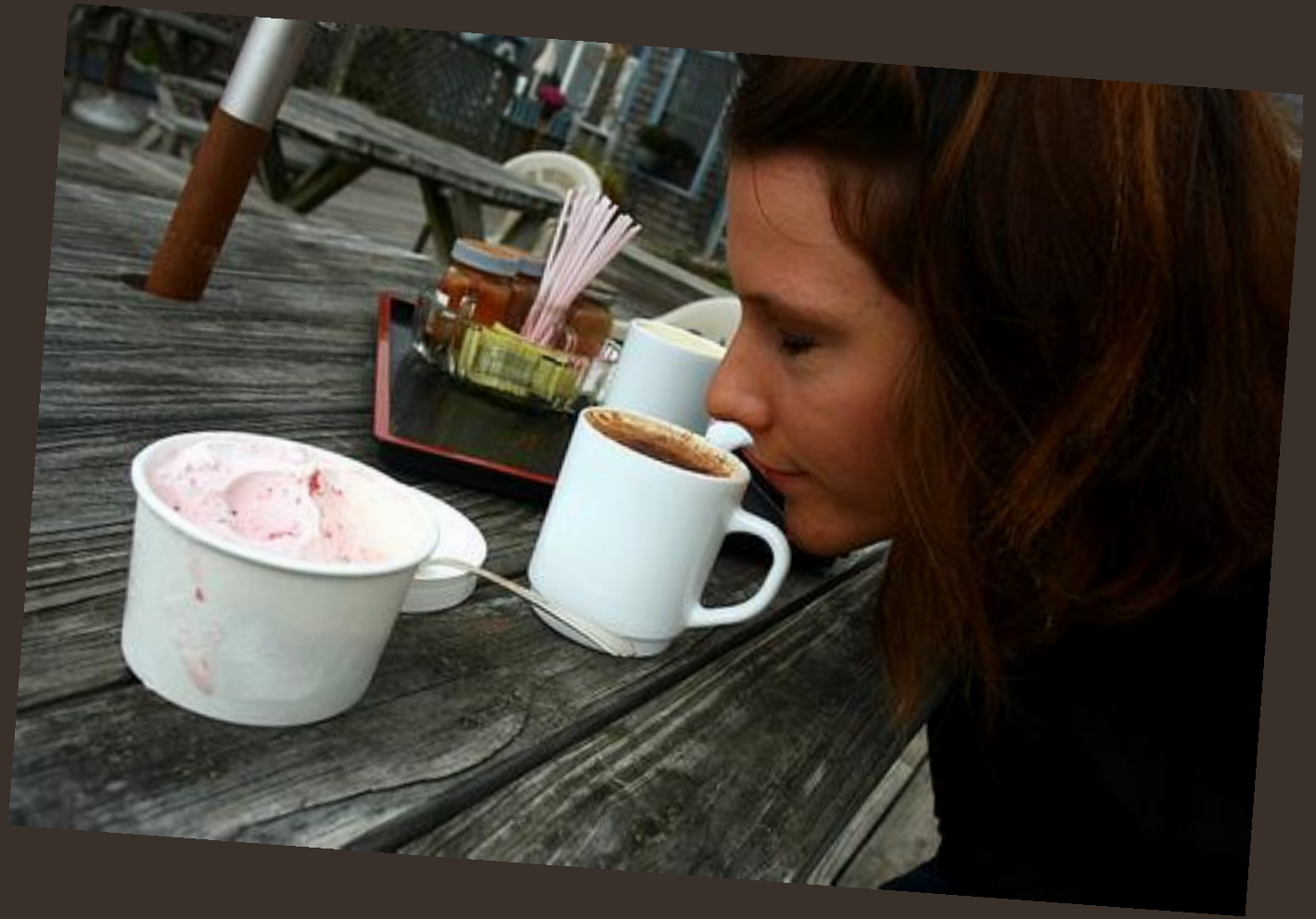
**“Could I  
please have  
a \_\_\_\_?”**



**This is very polite. A parent might teach a child to order food/drink in this way because it is extremely polite. Adults can use the phrase also.**

***Could I please have a latte with a pinch of cinnamon?***

**“I’d like a \_\_\_\_”**



**This is also polite. It can be used in many different ordering situations.**

***I’d like a small hot coffee and some ice cream.***



**Sweetened**

**adjective**



**If a drink is “sweetened” it means that sugar or another kind of sweetener has been added to it.**

***I would like my coffee sweetened, please.***

# **Black (coffee)**

**adjective**



**If you take your coffee “black” it means that you don’t add any milk or cream**

***I’d like a medium, dark roast, black, please.***

**A splash of \_\_\_\_  
expression**



**If you ask for “a splash of\_\_” it means that you want a small amount of something such as milk or cream or chocolate sauce**

***I'll take a regular coffee with just a splash of cream.***

**Decaf**  
(decaffeinated)

adjective



**If you ask for a “decaf” coffee, you will get coffee that does not have caffeine.**

***Do you have decaf here?***



## Bonus step! The Tip Jar

In the US, it's common to see a tip jar on the counter at a coffee shop when you do not receive table service. Here is what you should do:

- For a small order, tip between 20 and 50% of the order (regular coffee, espresso, etc.)
- If you get a full meal at the counter, you can tip between 15 and 20%
- Consider the service that you received and the quality of the food to decide how much to tip



## Step 3: 4 Ways to Order a Coffee in English

In this step you will hear four ways to order a coffee in English.

Listen up!

Listen to Audio Steps 3 and 4-  
Four Ways to Order a Coffee in English



## Step 4: Focus on the Vocabulary Phrases

Learn the new vocabulary in context!

Please open Transcript Steps 3 and 4 – Four Ways to Order a Coffee in English

- “Can I get a large, vanilla latte with fat-free milk?”
- “Sure, do you want your latte sweetened?”
- “I’m gonna (going to) have a small, black coffee please.”
- “Could I please have a medium cappuccino with extra foam?”
- “I’d like a medium, hazelnut coffee with a splash of cream.”

# **Bonus! Say It Another Way!**

**Learn how to say the phrases in a different way!**

**Click on the file “Say It Another Way”**



## Step 5: Use Your New Skills

**“Can I get a  
(\_\_\_\_)?”**

**“I’d like a  
\_\_\_\_\_”**

**“I’m gonna (going  
to) have a (\_\_\_\_)”**

**Sweetened**

**“Could I please  
have (\_\_\_\_)”**

**Black coffee**

**Decaf  
(decaffeinated)**

**A splash of  
\_\_\_\_\_**

A: Can I \_\_1\_\_ a tall, decaf coffee?

B: Sure, would you like your coffee  
\_\_2\_\_ (with sugar)?

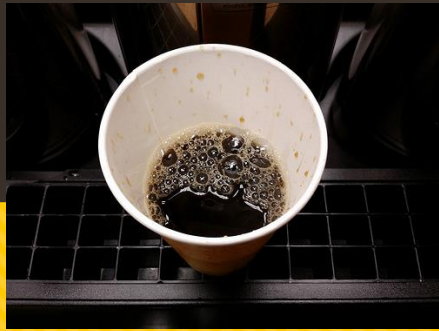
A: \_\_3\_\_ I please have a medium  
mocha with a \_4\_\_ (small amount)  
whipped cream?

B: Absolutely. (It’s) coming right up.

# Step 5 answers

- 1- get or have
- 2- sweetened
- 3- could
- 4- splash of

**Black coffee**



**A splash of \_\_\_\_\_**



**Decaf  
(decaffeinated)**



**Sweetened**



# Prepare Your Vocabulary Cards

**“I’m gonna (going to) have a (\_\_\_\_)”**



**“I’d like a \_\_\_\_\_”**

**“Can I get a (\_\_\_\_)?”**



**“Could I please have (\_\_\_\_)”**



# Step 6: Practice with a Native Conversation 1

Please role play the following situation using these phrases and then switch roles: **Black coffee, Can I get a \_\_\_\_\_, a splash of**

**Conversation partner:** You are a barista at a local coffee shop. Please take the customer's order

**Student:** You are a customer at a coffee shop and you want to order your morning coffee.

**Bonus Conversation 1: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way**(A= friend, B= friend)

A: *(student) Welcome to Jo's Coffee. What can I get for you today?*

B: \_\_\_\_\_ (can I get a) \_\_\_\_\_ (black coffee)?

A: *Sure. Are you sure you don't want some milk or cream with that?*

B: Ok just a \_\_\_\_\_(splash of cream) please.

A: *Ok that'll be \$2.50 please.*



# Bonus Conversation 1 answers

**Bonus Conversation 1: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way**(A= friend, B= friend)

A: *(student) Welcome to Jo's Coffee. What can I get for you today?*

B: Can I have a coffee with no milk and no sugar?

A: *Sure. Are you sure you don't want some milk or cream with that?*

B: Ok just a tiny bit of cream, please

A: *Ok that'll be \$2.50 please.*

# Step 6: Practice with a Native Conversation 2

Please role play the following situation using these phrases and then switch roles: **I'm gonna have a, sweetened**

**Conversation partner:** You are a barista at a local coffee shop. Please take the customer's order

**Student:** You are a customer at a coffee shop and you came for an afternoon coffee break.

**Bonus Conversation 2: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way**(A= friend, B= friend)

A: *(student)* Hello and welcome

B: Thanks. \_\_\_\_\_ (I'm gonna have a) iced coffee in a medium-sized cup.

A: *Got it. Would you like your iced coffee \_\_\_\_ (sweetened)?*

B: No thanks. I'll take it unsweetened.

# Bonus conversation 2 answers

**Bonus Conversation 2: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way**(A= friend, B= friend)

A: *(student) Hello and welcome*

B: Thanks. I'll have an iced coffee in a medium-sized cup.

A: *Got it. Would you like your iced coffee with sugar?*

B: No thanks. I'll take it unsweetened.

# Step 6: Practice with a Native Conversation 3

Please role play the following situation using these phrases and then switch roles: **Could I please have a\_\_\_, I'd like a \_\_\_\_, decaf**

**Conversation partner:** You are a barista at a local coffee shop. Please take the customer's order.

**Student:** You are a customer at a coffee shop and you came to get a coffee to take back to work

**Bonus Conversation 3: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way**(A= friend, B= friend)

A: *(student)*Hi, what are you having today?

B: \_\_\_\_ (could I please have a ) café au lait to go?

A: *Of course. Anything else?*

B: Oh I almost forgot. \_\_\_\_ (I'd like it) to be \_\_\_\_ (decaf)

A: *Ok it'll be ready for you on the bar in just a minute.*



# Bonus conversation 3 answers

**Bonus Conversation 3: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way**(A= friend, B= friend)

A: *(student)*Hi, what are you having today?

B: Could I please get a café au lait to go?

A: *Of course. Anything else?*

B: Oh I almost forgot. May I please have it without caffeine?

A: *Ok it'll be ready for you on the bar in just a minute.*

# Additional Conversation Questions

- How do you usually take your coffee? Is coffee a regular part of your day? How often do you drink it? At what time during the day do you drink it?
- Are you a coffee “snob”? Are you picky about what kind of coffee you drink and the quality?
- How and why did you start drinking coffee? Did your parents drink it when you were a kid?
- Which part of coffee-drinking do you enjoy more- the ritual of preparing or buying it, the smell, etc. or the actual taste of it?
- Is coffee an important part of your home culture? What role does it play?

# Additional Conversation Questions

- What are some coffee-drinking norms in your home culture that are different from here? (example-taking coffee to go). What surprised you in the conversations about coffee drinking in the US in this module?
- Are you addicted to coffee/caffeine? Have you ever tried to stop drinking coffee? How did your body react?
- Would you rather meet a friend for coffee or tea? Why?
- What are your thoughts on coffee chains like Starbucks being opened all over the world? Are these chains taking away from local culture or providing convenience for people or both? Do you drink Starbucks coffee? What do you think about the quality?

# Additional Conversation Questions

- What do you know about Fair Trade coffee? Is there a Fair Trade movement happening now in your country? Why or why not?
- Have you ever made a mistake or had a confusing situation while ordering coffee in English? Describe what happened?



# Photo Credits

- Can I get a : <http://www.flickr.com/photos/satterwhiteb/>
- "I'm gonna have a" <http://www.flickr.com/photos/roland/>
- Could I please have: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/avlxyz/>
- Ice cream and coffee: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/suckamc/>
- Sweetened: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/borkurdotnet/>
- Splash of cream: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/rore/>
- Decaf: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/zoonabar/>
- 4 ways to order: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/96dpi/>
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- Tip jar: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/davedugdale/>