

Real Talk #040 – How to order coffee

Episode description

People around the world often start their days with a nice cup of coffee. In this Real Talk episode, Andrew and Jeremy discuss some helpful phrases that one might need when ordering a cup of energizing coffee.

Fun fact

Brazil is the largest producer of coffee in the world. It produces about a third of all coffee. That's a lot of coffee beans!

Expressions included in the study guide

- Go-to
- Drip coffee
- [Something] doesn't agree with [someone]
- Have a good one
- Bring [one's] own cup
- [Something]-free



Transcript

Note: The words and expressions that appear in **bold text** within the transcript are discussed in more detail in the Detailed Explanations section that follows the transcript. The transcript has been edited for clarity.

Andrew: Hello, everyone. My name is Andrew.

Jeremy: And my name is Jeremy.

Andrew: And you are listening to Culips.

Andrew: Welcome back to Culips, everyone. You're listening to Real Talk, which is the series where we teach you the English expressions that you need to know for real-world situations. And the real-world situation that we'll explore today is how to order coffee at a coffee shop.

Andrew: And just before we get started, I want to let you know that the best way to study with this episode is with the study guide. And inside the guide is the transcript, detailed vocabulary explanations, real-life examples, and a comprehension quiz, and more. You can download it from our website, Culips.com, and follow along with us as you listen here today. And I'm not alone today, I'm with my cohost Jeremy. Jeremy, hello.

Jeremy: Hi there.

Andrew: You know, today we're going to teach all of our listeners some practical expressions they can use when ordering something to drink at a coffee shop. I'm curious: what's your **go-to** order at the coffee shop? What do you like to drink?

Jeremy: Honestly, currently, I do not drink coffee. I stopped drinking coffee a few months ago, I guess, for a number of reasons. So now I actually ordered tea, and I like to get chai teas, usually. A chai or a chai latte. But when I ordered coffee, it was usually an Americano. That was usually my **go-to** order. What about you, Andrew? What's your **go-to** order?

Andrew: My **go-to** order is usually a latte. A latte is something that I can't make at home easily. So if I go to a coffee shop, I like to order a latte. And so we should explain this expression, **go-to**: it means your default order or the one that you usually, almost always, order.

Jeremy: Yeah, the one that you do without thinking.

Andrew: Exactly. And in my case, it's a latte.

Jeremy: The thing that you always go to when it's time to order.

Andrew: Exactly. So, Jeremy, perhaps you could break down the format for this episode to our listeners?

Jeremy: Sure. We're going to listen to some short conversations between a customer and a barista, who is the coffee maker at a coffee shop. After we listen to each one, we'll go back and examine it closely and break down all of the expressions we heard, and we'll also teach you some other useful vocabulary that you may need to know.

Andrew: Sounds great. OK. Let's get started and listen to that first conversation.

Barista: Hey, how's it going?

Customer: I'm doing great. Could I just get a **drip coffee** to go?

Barista: Yeah, absolutely. Small's OK for you?

Customer: Yup, that's fine.

Barista: And do you need room for milk?

Customer: No, I'm good.

Barista: All right, that's \$2.75.

Customer: Here you are.

Barista: Thanks. **Have a good one.**

Jeremy: So the first expression to mention from this dialogue is **drip coffee**. A **drip coffee** is usually coffee that has been brewed beforehand. Usually at the coffee shop, they start making that coffee in the morning and they keep it hot in a container all day. And, also, usually this is the cheapest drink on the menu.

Andrew: Yeah, **drip coffee**, I think of it as just being coffee that's made in a coffee machine, just like you would find in your house. Like, just a bigger one. There's also hand **dripped coffee**. And that's coffee that is also made in a similar way, where the water is added from the top and drips down. But it's done by the barista, the coffee maker, in a kind of deliberate, circular, labour-intensive way, so it's more expensive.

Jeremy: Yeah, hand drip or pour over or hand pour, all of these terms, I have heard used for this.

Andrew: Exactly. And then I guess **drip coffee** is in opposition or compared with espresso-based coffee, right, where you're using a different machine, an espresso machine to add pressure and you're making a smaller quantity of more intensely flavoured coffee. So that's kind of the difference between the different types there.

Jeremy: So anything made in a coffee maker is technically a **drip coffee**. And at coffee shops, they just use big coffee makers.

Andrew: Right. When I was a student, my **go-to** was always **drip coffee** because, like you said, Jeremy, it's the cheapest.

Andrew: So we heard the barista ask the customer, "Do you need room for milk?" "Do you need room for milk?" Could you expand on what this means for us, Jeremy?

Jeremy: Well, a lot of people like adding milk to their coffee. It sort of tones down the bitterness that naturally comes with coffee. But other people don't mind that bitterness, or actually like it. So baristas will usually ask you, "Do you need room for milk?" And what they mean is, should I leave some room in the cup so that you can pour milk in, or should I fill it all the way up with coffee?

Andrew: Exactly. So do you want it filled to the very top of the cup with black coffee? Or do you want me to fill it up 90% of the way and leave some extra space so that you can add milk? In most North American coffee shops, there are, like, little tables or areas in the coffee shop where there's milk and cream and sugar. And after you order your coffee, you can go to one of these areas and adjust your coffee to your own taste.

Jeremy: Everybody has their own preference with coffee.

Andrew: Yeah, in Canada, we have expressions, I don't know if you have these in the States, I think it's a Canadian thing. But we say double-double or triple-triple. Do you do you use those in America, too?

Jeremy: I haven't heard those. But a double would be two espresso shots. A triple would be three espresso shots, but I've never heard double-double, triple-triple.

Andrew: Double-double means just a regular **drip coffee**, but with two cream containers added and two sugar packets added. And a triple-triple is three creams and three sugars, which you're getting into non-coffee territory if you add that much cream and sugar, to me.

Jeremy: Just drink the cream and eat the sugar and be done with it.

Andrew: But some people like it. It's all right.

Andrew: So milk, milk is commonly put in coffee, like we heard in that conversation, also cream. And there are milk alternatives that you can find at most coffee shops now. What are some of the ones that are popular where you live?

Jeremy: Actually, personally, I cannot drink milk. As we say, **it doesn't agree with me**. Meaning if I do drink milk, I feel very sick to my stomach and it's not very nice. My body doesn't digest it. So I always ask for some alternative milk. And when I ask, I say, do you have any non-dairy options or any non-dairy milk? And they say, oh, yes, we have almond, soy. Those two are most common, almond and soy.

Jeremy: But these days, oat milk has become very popular, cashew milk, sometimes macadamia milk, I have also heard of. So various nuts can be made into milk, also. But my personal favourite is oat milk. Oat milk is the tastiest, I think.

Andrew: Interesting. Yeah, I've had soy milk and almond milk. I've never tried oat milk, although I've seen it on the internet, so I wanna try it one day.

Jeremy: Wow, really? It's, in my opinion, it blends with the coffee much more smoothly than other nut milks.

Andrew: OK. Interesting.

Andrew: So let's move on to the next interesting expression that we heard in this conversation, which is **have a good one, have a good one**. The barista says this to the customer, as the customer is leaving the coffee shop: **have a good one**. And I use this all the time. It just simply means have a good day. Have a good day.

Jeremy: So I am from northern California, and I went to university in southern California. And for the last few years I have been living in southern California, in Los Angeles. And in Los Angeles, everyone seems to say **have a good one. Have a good one**. But this was very strange to me, because I did not grow up saying this expression. I would say have a good day or take care. Take care for me is much more natural, I guess, feels more normal to me. But, yes, **have a good one**. The word one here does not mean 1, 2, 3 necessarily, like a number. It's referring to a previously implied noun.

Andrew: All right, I think we can move on to conversation #2. So let's take a listen to it now.

Barista: Hi, I can take your order over here.

Customer: Oh, hi. Could I get a large double shot, iced vanilla latte with soy milk?

Barista: Sure. For here?

Customer: Yeah, but I **brought my own cup**.

Barista: Ah, perfect. OK, anything else?

Customer: Are your muffins **gluten-free**?

Barista: No, but we do have some **gluten-free** banana bread.

Customer: OK, I'll have a slice of that, too, then.

Barista: Sure. It's gonna be \$8.00, please.

Customer: Here you are.

Andrew: OK. Jeremy, you were actually telling me off-air before we started recording about a funny video that you watched this morning.

Jeremy: Yes.

Andrew: With overly complicated coffee shop orders. And we heard a pretty complicated order in this conversation, didn't we?

Jeremy: Yeah. I mean, I think that coffee is such a common thing that people drink. But it's also very basic. So everybody has their preference. Some people like milk, some people need alternative milk, milks. Some people like sweet, some people don't like sweet. Some people like flavour added, some people don't. So if you order coffee often enough, eventually you know your favourite coffee. So I think everybody has their order memorized. And in this one, we heard a large double shot, iced vanilla latte with soy milk and the order here is very important, large, every barista will ask that question if you don't tell them.

Andrew: Yeah, so you hit on a really good point there, Jeremy, that there is a kind of sequence that we should follow when placing an order. So the first thing that you want to start with is the size, right? We heard a large, that was the first thing the customer said, size. After size, we can move on to the number of espresso shots. You really only need to

include this if you want to have more than one. If you just want one, you can omit this information.

Jeremy: Yeah, if I only wanted, if I wanted a single shot, I would just say iced vanilla latte with soy milk. I don't need to say anything.

Andrew: But this customer wanted an extra shot. So they have to say double shot or triple shot, quadruple shot. That would be the maximum, quadruple shot, maybe.

Jeremy: If you're very tired that day. The number of shots will add more caffeine, if you have more shots.

Andrew: Right.

Jeremy: The next thing that is commonly asked is whether you want a hot drink or an iced drink. So if you don't say that in your order, the barista is required to ask you, just like with the size. So, in this dialogue, I ordered a double shot iced vanilla latte. So I'm telling the barista that I don't want a hot drink. I want a drink with ice in it.

Andrew: And, again, I have the feeling that you only have to specify iced if you want it to be cold. But if you want a hot one, then you don't have to say this. The kind of default orders are the hot coffee.

Jeremy: True, but in my experience they ask you anyway, because they want to make sure that you're not disappointed with your order after it comes out. But you're right, you're right, in general hot coffee is the default.

Andrew: And then the next element in your order is going to be the name of the coffee that you want, right? So we heard vanilla latte, but it could be cappuccino, could be Americano.

Jeremy: Or at Starbucks, a Frappuccino.

Andrew: Frappuccino. Yeah, so many different drink names.

Andrew: And then the final element is anything extra that you may want to include. So soy milk, cream, honey, sugar, I don't know, any extra thing that you want to put in.

Jeremy: Cinnamon.

Andrew: Syrups.

Jeremy: In this situation, a latte is a coffee with milk. So when I say a latte with soy milk, I'm saying do not use normal milk. I do not want regular milk, please replace it with soy milk. So it doesn't necessarily mean that I'm adding soy milk to the drink. But if I said a vanilla latte with honey, or a vanilla latte with cinnamon, then they would assume regular milk.

Andrew: Right. Again, regular milk is kind of the default and if you want to go away from the default, then you need to specify what you want. You could also say a large double shot iced vanilla soy latte.

Jeremy: Soy latte, yeah.

Andrew: Yeah, true. You could modify it that way.

Andrew: So moving on, the next interesting thing we heard was the customer saying, "I brought my own cup." "I brought my own cup." So why would a customer **bring their own cup** to a coffee shop?

Jeremy: Well, personally, I always **bring my own cup** because I am trying to be conscious of my carbon footprint, we could say, which is a word that means how much trash I produce. So, personally, I don't like the idea of creating trash just so I can pour a cup of liquid into my body. I would rather use a cup that I have at home. I have many cups. So I usually **bring my own cup** and ask the barista to use that one instead of the paper or plastic cup that they would otherwise use.

Andrew: Exactly. And this is becoming really trendy these days. Some coffee shops are even offering small discounts. You might be able to save 10¢ or 25¢ or something if you **bring your own cup** and, yeah, it's good for everybody. It's easier for the coffee shop people, they don't have to buy and dispose of cups, and it's good for the earth. And it's good for the consumer, because they save a little bit of money, too.

Jeremy: Yeah, yeah. I like it.

Andrew: All right, and the final thing that I want to touch on here is **gluten-free**. This is—talking about trends, there's another trend. Yeah. I'm sure there's a lot of **gluten-free** products in your neck of the woods, Jeremy. Could you maybe tell us what that means?

Jeremy: Well, gluten is something that is normally in bread or other wheat products like cereal, usually bread, pasta, as well. Somewhat recently, it has been discovered that gluten can cause a lot of problems for people from, anything from digestive problems all the way to mental problems, I have heard. So a lot of people have a gluten allergy, and

other people just have negative effects from eating gluten. And, as a result, a lot of **gluten-free** products have started to come out.

Andrew: Exactly. A really good expression to know here is intolerant or intolerance. So you could say I have a gluten intolerance or I'm gluten intolerant. Like, Jeremy, maybe you would say that you are lactose intolerant?

Jeremy: Yes, I do. I do say that.

Andrew: Right. So lactose intolerant means that you have difficulties digesting dairy products, right? With lactose in them. And if you have a gluten intolerance, then you have difficulties digesting baked goods, usually, that have that gluten component of wheat inside of them. So, like you said, breads, muffins, all of those delicious baked goods.

Jeremy: Yeah, usually they are very tasty, but for me, with gluten as well, I don't feel very good after I eat it.

Andrew: Yeah. So thankfully there are lots of **gluten-free** alternatives on the market these days and they're quite easy to find. So that's what we heard in that conversation.

Jeremy: So that brings us to the end of this episode. Thank you all for listening. We hope you learned a lot with us today.

Andrew: Our website is Culips.com. And if you want to get the transcript and study guide for this episode, just check out the website and you can download it.

Jeremy: We are also on social media. So stay up to date with Culips by following us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, or Twitter.

Andrew: And we'll be back soon with another brand-new Culips episode. We'll talk to you all then. Bye.

Jeremy: Bye.

Detailed Explanations

Go-to Adjective

The adjective **go-to** describes a person or thing that is preferred over anything else in a particular situation. For example, in this episode, Andrew and Jeremy talk about their **go-to** orders. Their **go-to** orders are the coffee orders that they prefer over any other drink when they go to a coffee shop.

Go-to can also be used to describe a specific person who is preferred over all others in a particular situation. For example, if a man's car breaks down, he might have a **go-to** car mechanic—a mechanic that he uses every time his car has a problem.

Here are a couple more examples with **go-to**:

Anthony: Ugh. I have the hiccups. I can't get them to go away!

Zhao: Eat a spoonful of sugar.

Anthony: Does that actually work?

Zhao: Yeah, totally. It's my **go-to** method to get rid of hiccups. It works every time.

Marianne: OK, important question. I'm new to this area and I am dying for some good sushi. Where's the best sushi place around here?

Kathleen: Oh, it's definitely Wasabi's. They have the best sushi in town, especially the spicy tuna roll. That's my **go-to** order whenever I go there.

Marianne: Wanna go together after work today?

Kathleen: For sure! All this talk about sushi is giving me such a craving.

Drip coffee

Noun

Drip coffee is a way to make coffee by running boiling water over coffee grounds. **Drip coffee** is also known as **hand drip**, **pour over**, or **hand pour** coffee. Coffee is also made using a press, which tends to make a stronger, bolder blend of coffee. **Drip coffee** is the most common way to make coffee in North America.

Here are a couple more examples with **drip coffee**:

Frances: Hey, do you wanna go camping this weekend?

Gary: Not really. I'm not really the outdoors type.

Frances: Don't worry about that. We're going camping in luxury this weekend. We're staying in cabins that have heating, electricity, a **drip coffee** maker, and a grill.

Gary: Wow, that's my kind of camping! Sure, I'm in. Can I man the grill? You know I make killer hamburgers.

Frances: Sure thing!

Heather: How do you usually get your caffeine fix in the morning? I'm an espresso drinker.

Raquel: I usually just drink **drip coffee** from my machine. I'm not too picky.

Heather: I'm kind of a coffee snob, so I can't drink that watered-down stuff.

Raquel: I'm the opposite. If I drink something too strong, my heart starts beating on overdrive and my stomach starts doing flips.

[Something] doesn't agree with [someone] Phrase

The phrase **[something] doesn't agree with [someone]** means that a certain type of food causes someone to feel ill or uncomfortable. For example, in this episode, Jeremy says that **milk doesn't agree with him**. In other words, when Jeremy drinks milk, it tends to make him feel ill; therefore, he tries to avoid drinking dairy milk.

People who suffer from a slight allergy will use the phrase **[something] doesn't agree with me**. Any food that causes a person to feel ill, bloated, or pained **doesn't agree with that person**.

Here are a couple more examples with **[something] doesn't agree with [someone]**:

Kyle: Hey, wanna go get some hot wings after work?

PJ: **Spicy food doesn't really agree with me.**

Kyle: Ah. In that case, I'll get an order of hot wings and you can get something else.

PJ: OK, I'm in. Stop by my desk when you're ready to go.

Veronica: Here, I bought an extra ice cream cone. You can have it.

Hillary: No, thanks. I don't eat ice cream.

Veronica: What? Ice cream is the best! Are you on a diet?

Hillary: No, **ice cream just doesn't agree with me**. If I eat it, I'll be gassy and bloated for the rest of the day.

Veronica: OK, I guess I'll have to take one for the team and eat both of them.

Hillary: You're probably not too sad about that!

Have a good one Phrase

Have a good one is a phrase that has the same meaning as **have a good day**. A good one refers to an enjoyable day. The phrase **have a good one** is all right to use in pretty much any social situation, from talking with friends to talking to coworkers. One might want to use a more formal phrase when talking to one's boss, such as **have a wonderful day**.

Here are a couple more examples with **have a good one**:

Henry: OK, I gotta go. I've got a meeting in a couple of minutes.

Kevin: No problem. Anyways, it was great to catch up. We haven't hung out in forever.

Henry: Yeah, it really was. **Have a good one**, man. See you later.

Kevin: Bye.

Belinda: Hey, girl, I bought some coffees for the office. Would you like one?

Cathy: Wow, thanks! I really appreciate it.

Belinda: No biggie. I just felt like doing something special. Anyways, **have a good one**.

Cathy: You too!

Bring [one's] own cup

Phrase

Bring [one's] own cup is a phrase used these days in coffee shops to let people know that they can **bring their own cup** to the coffee shop to decrease waste. If people **bring their own cup**, then they don't require a disposable cup. It not only saves the coffee shop money, but it often saves the customers money, as well, because many coffee shops offer small discounts to customers who **bring their own cups**. **Bringing [one's] own cup** cuts down on waste, saves money, and lowers each customer's carbon footprint—the amount of carbon dioxide and other fuels a person consumes in their lifetime.

The phrase is used for other things as well, notably alcohol. For example, restaurants that do not have a liquor license often have a BYOB policy. BYOB stands for **bring your own bottle** or **bring your own booze** (booze is a casual way of saying alcohol).

Here are a couple more examples with **bring [one's] own cup**:

Caroline: Oh my goodness! Where did you get that cup? It is so cute.

Mako: I got it at Starbucks. They always have cute merchandise.

Caroline: Wow. Is it expensive?

Mako: Yeah, a little bit, but it's totally worth it. Starbucks gives a discount on drinks for people who **bring their own cup**.

Caroline: That's great! I think I'll stop by after work and pick one up.

Mako: If you go, buy me another one while you're there! I'll pay you back tomorrow.

Jeffrey: Hey, Logan. I'm having a party at my house on Friday. You in?

Logan: Totally. What time?

Jeffrey: I'm gonna start grilling around 5:00, so you can come any time after that.

Logan: Cool. Should I bring anything?

Jeffrey: Yeah. I'm providing the meat and other food, but the party is BYOB, so make sure to **bring your own drinks**.

Logan: Sounds like a plan. See you Friday night!

[Something]-free Compound adjective

[Something]-free is a compound adjective that means without [something]. For example, **sugar-free** snacks are snacks without sugar. Likewise, **fat-free** milk is milk without fat. **[Something]-free** is a great adjective one can use whenever talking about the absence of something. It can be used with a variety of different nouns in a variety of different ways.

Here are a couple more examples with **[something]-free**:

Diana: Girl, I have been so stressed this week. I really need to relax this weekend.

Lana: I hear you. This week has been brutal. We need to unwind.

Diana: How about a **stress-free** spa weekend? I have a coupon that Dave gave me for Christmas that I still haven't used.

Lana: That sounds amazing!

George: Do you want a water bottle? They're giving them away for free at that booth over there.

Christian: Are they **BPA-free**?

George: What's that?

Christian: BPA—you know, those chemicals in certain plastics that can give you cancer.

George: I have no idea. You can go and ask if you're worried about it.

Quiz

1. Which phrase has a similar meaning to have a nice day?
 - a) catch ya later
 - b) have a blast
 - c) have a good one
 - d) don't waste it

2. Which word cannot replace the [something] in the phrase [something]-free?
 - a) sugar
 - b) buy
 - c) dairy
 - d) stress

3. True or false? If you bring your own cup to a coffee shop, you will sometimes receive a discount.
 - a) true
 - b) false

4. Which of the choices below is NOT another name for drip coffee?
 - a) hand drip
 - b) pour over
 - c) hand pour
 - d) French press

5. Which word has a similar meaning to go-to?
 - a) knowledgeable
 - b) preferred
 - c) get away
 - d) avoid

Writing and Discussion Questions

1. What is your go-to coffee drink that you love to order at cafés?
2. Do you choose cafés based on their coffee or their atmosphere?
3. What is something that doesn't agree with you when you eat it?
4. Are you able to bring your own cup or bring your own alcohol to restaurants and cafés in your country?
5. What are your favourite sugar-free snacks?

Quiz Answers

1.c 2.b 3.a 4.d 5.b

Episode credits

Hosts: Andrew Bates and Jeremy Brinkerhoff

Music: *Something Elated* by Broke For Free

Episode preparation/research: Andrew Bates

Audio editor: Andrew Bates

Transcriptionist: Heather Bates

Study guide writer: Kassy White

English editor: Stephanie MacLean

Business manager: Tsuyoshi Kaneshima

Project manager: Jessica Cox

Image: Nathan Dumlao (Unsplash.com)