



A2

A2 · UNIT 1 · EPISODE 2

Ordering Coffee

The four questions every coffee shop asks, and a trick for your name.

KEY WORDS

Can I get ...?	An easy, friendly way to order.	<i>Can I get a medium latte, please?</i>
medium	The middle size: not small, not large.	<i>Can I get a medium latte, please?</i>
to go	You take the drink with you.	<i>To go, please.</i>
room for milk	Space at the top of the cup, so you can add milk.	<i>Room for milk? No, thanks.</i>
barista	A person who makes coffee in a coffee shop.	<i>The barista asked for my name.</i>
spell	To say the letters of a word, one by one.	<i>It's Nina. N-I-N-A.</i>

THE STORY

- Nina** Hi, I'm Nina.
- Ray** And I'm Ray.
- Nina** Ray, do you remember your first coffee here?
- Ray** I do. I said one coffee, please.
- Nina** And?
- Ray** And she asked me four questions. I understood none of them.
- Nina** Four! That's the thing. It's never just one question.
- Ray** So today, the four questions.
- Nina** The four questions. Question one is size.
- Ray** Small, medium, large?
- Nina** At most places, yes. Some places use their own names. Just point and say that size.
- Ray** That size. That's easy.
- Nina** It always works. Question two: for here or to go?
- Ray** For here means I sit down.
- Nina** Yes. And to go means you take it with you. You can also say takeaway, but to go is more common here.
- Ray** For here or to go. Got it.
- Nina** Question three. Room for milk?

Ray Room? Like space?

Nina Exactly. They're asking if they should leave space at the top, so you can add milk yourself.

Ray Oh! I always thought it was a strange question.

Nina Say yes, please, or no, thanks. Both are fine.

Ray And question four?

Nina Your name.

Ray For the cup.

Nina For the cup. And here's my tip. If they never get your name right, give them a short one.

Ray Does that work?

Nina I've been Nina for two years and I've been Nena, Mina, and Tina.

Ray Tina.

Nina Tina. Okay, let's practice. You're the barista.

Ray Hi, what can I get you?

Nina Hi, can I get a medium latte, please?

Ray For here or to go?

Nina To go, please.

Ray Room for milk?

Nina No, thanks.

Ray Can I get a name?

Nina Nina. N-I-N-A.

Ray You spelled it.

Nina I spelled it. That's the real tip.

Ray So — size, for here or to go, room for milk, and your name.

Nina Four questions. And can I get is all you need to start.

Ray Can I get. Thanks, Nina.

Nina That's it for today. See you next time.

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1. The barista asks, "Room for milk?" What does it mean?

- ☐ A Is there a free table?
- ☐ B Should we leave space in the cup for milk?
- ☐ C Do you want more milk?

2. What is Nina's tip for your name?

- ☐ A Don't give your name.
- ☐ B Spell it, or give a short name.
- ☐ C Write it on the cup.

3. What size does Nina order?

- ☐ A Small
- ☐ B Medium
- ☐ C Large

4. Nina says, "To go, please." What does she want?

- ☐ A To sit down
- ☐ B To take the coffee with her
- ☐ C A bigger cup

5. What did Ray say the first time he ordered coffee?

- ☐ A One coffee, please.
- ☐ B A medium latte, please.
- ☐ C Coffee to go, please.

Shadowing tip. Pick three lines you like from the story. Say each one five times, faster each time, until it sounds natural.

ANSWER KEY

1. **B** They want to know if they should leave space at the top of the cup.
2. **B** Nina spells her name: N-I-N-A. A short name works too.
3. **B** She says: Can I get a medium latte, please?
4. **B** To go means you take the drink with you.
5. **A** He said "one coffee, please", and then the barista asked him four questions.

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