



Level: A2

## THE WITTY WAITER

**Teaching Point:**  
**Pronunciation –**  
**contrastive stress**

**Theme: Ordering in**  
**a restaurant**

**Activity: Stressing the**  
**appropriate word**

### PROCEDURE

1. Give the students copies of the worksheet *The Witty Waiter*, or project it.
2. Explain the dialogue on the worksheet. The speech bubbles a. and b. show the complaints of a customer in a restaurant. Lines 1-4 show the waiter's replies to these complaints. The waiter's replies to complaint a. and complaint b. are identical, except that the pronunciation is different.
3. Go through Reply 1 with the class as an example. The waiter's reply is  
Oh? Did you want hot soup.  
In response to complaint a., the waiter stresses the word *hot* to contrast with *cold* in the customer's complaint.  
In response to complaint b, the waiter stresses the word *soup* to contrast with *not soup*.
4. Demonstrate how the pronunciation is different in the two replies. Then say one or the other and get student's to identify if you are saying a. or b.  
a. Oh? Did you want **hot** soup?  
b. Oh? Did you want hot **soup**?
5. Students in pairs do the same: one says the sentence with pronunciation a. or pronunciation b. The other has to identify which.
6. Now students go through the rest of the dialogue on the worksheet and identify which word is stressed in waiter's replies 2-4.

### KEY

- 2a. tomato (to contrast with *not tomato*), b. soup (to contrast with *salad*)  
3a. is (to contrast with the idea that the soup isn't pea soup), b. pea (to identify what kind of soup it is)  
4a. do (to contrast with *don't*), b. you (to contrast with *your wife*)

### FURTHER PRACTICE

Give out the worksheet Restaurant Role-play. Get students to underline the words which should have contrastive stress. Then ask them to role-play the dialogue in pairs.

## THE WITTY WAITER

### THE WAITER'S RESPONSES

1a  
Waiter, this soup  
is cold!

1b  
This is hot, but  
it isn't soup!

**Oh, did you want hot soup?**

2a  
This soup  
isn't tomato!

2b  
This is tomato  
salad, not soup!

**Did you want tomato soup?**

3a  
I wanted  
pea soup!

3b  
What sort of  
soup is this?

**This is pea soup.**

4a  
I don't  
want soup!

4b  
My wife wanted  
soup, but I didn't!

**What do you want?**



### RESTAURANT ROLE-PLAY

C: Waiter, this soup is cold!  
W: Oh, did you want hot soup?

C: Yes, hot soup. Hot tomato  
soup, not pea soup.  
W: It is tomato soup.

C: But it's green!  
W: Yes, green tomato soup.  
It's delicious.

C: I want red tomato soup.  
Hot red tomato soup!  
W: I'm afraid we haven't got red  
tomato soup.

C: Well what have you got?  
W: Well, we've got red tomato  
salad...