

LECTURA GRADUADA • NIVEL A1

Un café para dos

A short story about ordering, listening, and an unexpected friendship.

READ	LEARN	CONNECT
A friendly story	Café vocabulary	Real conversation

FREE LEARNING MATERIAL

Created for Spanish speakers using English in everyday moments.

ANTES DE LEER

Get ready

This story happens in a café. Read once without stopping. On your second reading, study the bold words with the Spanish glossary.

Before you begin

What do you usually order in a café? Write two items.

1. _____

2. _____

Meet Diego

DIEGO

Diego is 31 and lives in Portland, Oregon. He works from home and studies English at night. Today he wants to order at a café without using a translation app.

Reading goal

Notice how Diego asks questions, checks information, and keeps a conversation going.

THE STORY · PART 1

A busy morning

It is Saturday morning. Diego opens the door of a small **café** near his apartment. The place is **crowded**, and there is a long **line**.

He looks at the **menu** above the counter. There are many choices: espresso, latte, tea, muffins, and sandwiches.

Diego practices quietly: 'I would like a coffee, please.'

When it is his turn, the **barista** smiles. 'Hi! What can I get for you?'

'I would like a **medium** coffee with milk, please.'

'What kind of milk?' she asks. 'Whole, oat, or almond?'

Diego knows milk, but not the three choices. 'I'm sorry. What is oat milk?'

'It is milk made from oats,' she explains. 'It does not have dairy.'

'Okay. I'll try that.'

'Would you like room for milk?'

Diego is not sure what **room** means here. He points to a cup on the counter. 'Can you show me?'

The barista points to the empty space at the top of the cup. 'Room means extra space.'

'Yes, please. A little room.'

'Anything to eat?'

Diego sees a blueberry **muffin**. 'One of those, please.'

He pays and moves to the side. He ordered everything in English. Now he only needs to wait for his name.

THE STORY · PART 2

The other Diego

A few minutes later, the barista calls, 'Coffee for Diego!'

Diego walks to the counter, but another man reaches for the same cup.

They both stop.

'Are you Diego?' the other man asks.

'Yes,' Diego says. 'Are you?'

The man laughs. 'Yes. We have the same name, but only one coffee.'

They check the **label**. It says: Diego - large black coffee.

'That one is yours,' says the first Diego. 'Mine is medium with oat milk.'

'Thanks for checking,' the other Diego says. He has gray hair, a green jacket, and a warm smile.

Soon the barista calls again. 'Medium oat milk coffee for Diego!'

This time, both men laugh.

There is only one empty **table**. The older Diego points to it. 'Would you like to **share** the table?'

Diego usually sits alone, but today he says, 'Sure.'

The older man is from Puerto Rico. His full name is Diego Rivera. 'Like the painter,' he says. The younger Diego is Diego Morales, from Mexico.

'So we need different names,' Diego Rivera says. 'You can be Diego Coffee.'

'And you can be Diego No Milk,' Diego Morales answers.

Their simple joke makes the café feel less crowded.

THE STORY · PART 3

A conversation for two

The two Diegos begin to talk. Diego Rivera is a retired **teacher**. Diego Morales designs websites.

‘How long have you lived here?’ Rivera asks.

Morales thinks for a moment. ‘I live here for two years.’

Rivera does not correct him immediately. He repeats the sentence naturally: ‘Oh, you **have lived** here for two years.’

Morales hears the difference. ‘Yes. I have lived here for two years.’

‘Your English is good,’ Rivera says.

‘I need more **practice**. Sometimes I am afraid to start a conversation.’

‘You started one today.’

‘Only because we both tried to take the same coffee.’

Rivera smiles. ‘A good conversation can begin anywhere.’

Before they leave, Rivera writes his phone number on a **napkin**. ‘I come here every Saturday. We can practice English and Spanish together.’

Morales folds the napkin and puts it carefully in his **wallet**. ‘Next Saturday, the coffee is my **treat**.’

‘That means you pay,’ Rivera says.

‘I know that word,’ Morales answers.

Outside, the morning is cool and bright. Diego came to practice one order. He leaves with a new phrase, a new joke, and a new friend.

**Sometimes one coffee is enough. Sometimes you
need a coffee for two.**

Words for the café

Read each word aloud. Then find it in the story and remember the moment where it appears.

ENGLISH	ESPAÑOL
café	cafetería
crowded	lleno/a de gente
line	fila
menu	menú
barista	persona que prepara café
medium	mediano/a
room	espacio
muffin	panecillo dulce
label	etiqueta
table	mesa
share	compartir
teacher	maestro/a
have lived	he vivido / he residido
practice	práctica
napkin	servilleta
wallet	cartera / billetera
treat	invitación pagada por otra persona

COMPREHENSION

Check your understanding

A. Choose the best answer

1. Why does Diego visit the café?

- a) To work there b) To practice ordering c) To meet his brother

2. What milk does Diego choose?

- a) Oat b) Whole c) Almond

3. Why do both men reach for one cup?

- a) They order the same drink b) They have the same name c) The label is missing

4. What was Rivera's job?

- a) Teacher b) Designer c) Barista

5. What do they plan to do?

- a) Meet next Saturday b) Work together c) Visit Mexico

B. True or false

1. The café is empty. **TRUE / FALSE**
2. Diego asks what oat milk is. **TRUE / FALSE**
3. Both Diegos order black coffee. **TRUE / FALSE**
4. Rivera helps Morales with an English sentence. **TRUE / FALSE**
5. Morales keeps Rivera's number in his wallet. **TRUE / FALSE**

C. Café language

Complete with: **get • like • room • eat**

1. What can I _____ for you?
2. I would _____ a medium coffee.
3. Would you like _____ for milk?
4. Anything to _____?

COMPREHENSION

Think and use English

D. Answer in a complete sentence

1. What does Diego do when he does not understand a word?

2. How do the two men know which coffee belongs to Rivera?

3. Why do the men give each other new names?

4. How does Rivera help Morales with English?

5. What does Diego gain from his visit to the café?

E. Your order

Write your own café order in 3-4 lines. Include a drink size, milk choice, and something to eat.

ANSWER KEY

Review your work

A. Multiple choice

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

B. True or false

1. False 2. True 3. False 4. True 5. True

C. Café language

1. get 2. like 3. room 4. eat

D. Suggested answers

1. He asks a question or asks the barista to show him.
2. They read the label on the cup.
3. They have the same first name, so the new names are a joke.
4. He repeats the sentence naturally and lets Morales try again.
5. He practices English and makes a new friend.

**KEEP
GOING**

Order your favorite drink aloud. Then change the size, milk, and food item and say it again.

INGLÉS REAL. PARA UNA VIDA SIN BARRERAS.