

# Emergent Syllabus

## sample simulation: at a café



### Overview

Use this plan to prepare and do a practical simulation in class. This plan guides the teacher and the student for the activity; however, the materials or content will come from the activity itself. The teacher and student can use phrasebooks and websites to find useful vocabulary/phrases and real/realistic background information.

### Task Description

Consider a task that you may need to do in the near future. For example, you are at a café or bar; choose the food and drink you want and then order it.

### Initial Task

Use an online menu to choose your favorite snacks and drinks. You can look for cafes/bars in a location where your target language is spoken. Here is an example from two cafés in Boulder...

- <http://www.thecupboulder.com/menu/>
- <http://foolishcraigs.com/page/1913q/Menus/Lunch.html>

### Simulation Activity (in-class)

Prepare the phrases and words you will need for this simulation. Then practice or "role-play" the situation in-class. Consider these questions or mini dialogues ...

- Customer
  - Saying hello
  - Asking for the menu
  - Ordering drinks/snacks
  - Asking for the bathroom (perhaps use a floor plan... <http://tinyurl.com/37pzix>)
  - Asking about smoking areas or for an ashtray
  - Asking to pay
  - Paying
  - Saying thank you and good bye
- Barista/waiter
  - Saying hello
  - Giving the menu
  - Asking what kind of coffee/tea
    - Large/small
    - Coffee types
    - Hot/cold
  - Giving the bill or simply saying the amount owed
  - Saying thank you and good bye

The following resources may be useful...

- [www.smartphrase.com](http://www.smartphrase.com)
- Google Translator
- Phrasebooks: paper-based (physical) or iPhone app

### Taking it Further

The simulation can be extended in class to include more complex situations.

- the café does not have the item on the menu
- the tea/coffee/food is not hot
- some cutlery/silverware is dirty
- you don't know the café's Wi-Fi password
- the café's Wi-Fi is not working – ask if they can reset the modem

### Discussing the topic

A more general conversation about the topic will help to reuse the new words and phrases. Discuss what you like/dislike about cafés. Consider the following questions...

- How often do you go to cafés? When do you go?
- What do you do in cafés (read the newspaper, meet a friend, work)?
- Do you always go to the same place? Why?
- What do you look for when choosing a café?

Visit <http://www.avatarlanguages.com/teaching/guide.php> for further resources.

