

## 13. Ordering Food at Chinese Restaurants

### I LEARNING GOAL

Acquire Chinese vocabularies to order food in restaurants in China.

### II LANGUAGE POINTS

1. 菜单
2. 招牌菜
3. 忌口
4. 买单
5. 大众点评

### III SCRIPT

Tingting: Hello and welcome to “Everything about Business Chinese”. I’m Tingting.

Colin: Hello, I’m Colin.

Tingting: In the previous session, we learnt Chinese business banquet etiquettes. Today we’ll learn how to order at Chinese restaurants.

Colin: How exciting! I cannot wait to learn it.

Tingting: Let’s listen to a dialogue first.

A: 欢迎光临，请问几位？

B: 两位。

A: 您请坐。这是菜单。

B: 有什么招牌菜吗？

A: 麻婆豆腐和糖醋鱼。您有什么忌口吗？

B: 我不吃辣。请给我一份糖醋鱼和两碗米饭。

Tingting: Then let's listen to the English Version.

A: Welcome. How many guests for today?

B: Two.

A: Please take your seat. Here is the menu.

B: What is your specialty?

A: Mapo Tofu and Sweet & Sour Fish. Is there anything you don't eat?

B: I don't eat spicy food. Please give me a portion of Sweet and Sour Fish and two orders of rice.

Tingting: When you enter a restaurant, the waiter will ask "ji wei", namely "how many guests" and then offer you the menu. Menu is called "cai dan" in Chinese.

Colin: Hopefully Chinese restaurants will provide menus with photos of the dishes, so I can simply point at the photos to order.

Tingting: Most of them do. If they don't, you can ask them about the specialty of the restaurant, which is "zhao pai cai" in Chinese. "You shenme Zhaopai Cai ma" means "what is your specialty".

Colin: Then the waiter asked the guests "Nin you shen me jikou ma". What does jikou mean?

Tingting: "Jikou" is anything that you do not eat. The guest in the dialogue stated "bu chi la" which means he cannot eat spicy food.

Colin: I know "Tang cu yu" is sweet and sour fish, right?

Tingting: Exactly! "Liang wan mifan" refers to "two orders of rice". Usually the dishes will be served with rice, but you can double check it with your waiter.

Colin: Then how can I pay the bill after the meal?

Tingting: You can tell the waiter that you want to "mai dan", the Chinese equivalent of "check, please".

Colin: Got it. My last but very practical question today is how can we find good Chinese restaurant nearby if I were in China?

Tingting: I recommend an app called Dianping. It is kind of a combination of Yelp and Paypal, which can be used to search for nearby restaurants based on other people's reviews. You can even purchase the food coupons at discount on the app in advance sometimes. It's now a popular food hunting app in China.

Colin: Thank you so much for this tip. I will download the app right now!

Thank you for listening. Today's question is how to say "specialties of a restaurant" in Mandarin. Please email your answer to [CIB@Chinamericaradio.com](mailto:CIB@Chinamericaradio.com), we will post the first answer on our twitter account @Confuciusbiz. You can download today's transcript for free at [chinamericaradio.com](http://chinamericaradio.com), and email your questions at [CIB@Chinamericaradio.com](mailto:CIB@Chinamericaradio.com). See you next week!