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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**

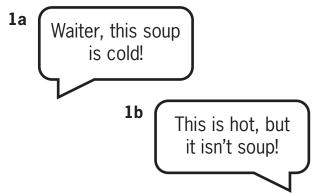
Give out the worksheet Restaurant Role-play. Get students to underline the words which should have contrastive stress. Then ask them to role-play the dialogue in pairs.



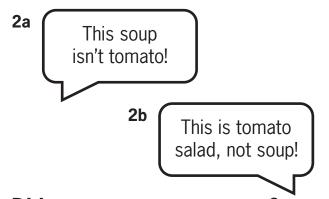
WORKSHEET www.hancockmcdonald.com

#### THE WITTY WAITER

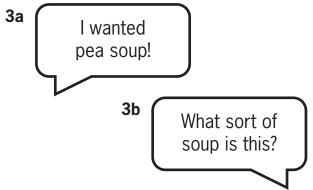
#### THE WAITER'S RESPONSES



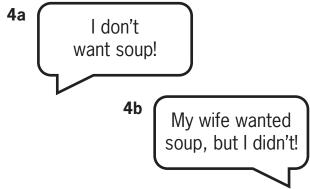
### Oh, did you want hot soup?



## Did you want tomato soup?



### This is pea soup.



### 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...