**VOCABULARY**

**On the table**

**MEDIUM PLUS**

It's Valentine's Day this month, so why not invite your loved one to a candlelit dinner for two? ANNA HOCHSIEDER presents language to talk about what's on the table.

**A festive dinner**

It was a Valentine’s Day that Lucy would never forget. Phil, her boyfriend, had invited her for a meal in his flat. Knowing Phil, she expected a Chinese takeaway to be eaten with plastic chopsticks, and shop-bought ice cream for dessert. Instead, she was greeted by mouth-watering smells coming from the kitchen. The dining table was set with white linen and porcelain crockery. The cutlery and glassware reflected the light of two candles in silver candlesticks. Knives, forks and spoons were arranged in the correct order. A wine cooler holding a bottle of champagne stood on the sideboard.

Phil pulled out a chair for Lucy and sat down opposite her. Then a man carrying a tray appeared from the kitchen and served them appetizers. Four more courses followed. The meal was rounded off by a delicious chocolate mousse.

When the hired chef had poured the coffee and retired to the kitchen, Phil pulled something from his pocket and took hold of Lucy’s hand. Can you guess what happened next?

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1. carafe [kəˈrɛf]
2. candlestick [ˈkændəlstɪk]
3. pepper mill [ˈpepər mil]
5. salad bowl [ˈsɛləd bəul]
6. salad server [ˈsɛləd, ˈsævə]
7. cup and saucer [ˌkʌp ənd ˈsəʊsə]
8. cutlery [ˈkætləri], flatware [ˈflætweə] N. Am.
10. serviette [ˌsɛrvɪət] UK, napkin [ˈnæpkin]
11. napkin ring [ˈnæpkin rɪŋ]
12. lid [lid]
13. tureen [ˈtjuərɪn]
14. ladle [ˈledəl]
15. table runner [ˈteɪbl rənə]
16. serving dish [ˈsərvin dɪʃ]
17. serving spoon [ˈsərvin spən]
18. tablecloth [ˈteɪblkləθ]
19. carving knife [ˈkærvɪŋ nɑːf]
20. dinner plate [ˈdɪnə plæt] (USA: dinner plate)
21. bread basket [ˈbreɪd ˈbæskɪt]
24. gravy boat [ˈɡreɪvi bɔːt]
PRACTICE
Now try the following exercises to practise talking about what’s on the table.

Exercise 1
Odd one out: cross out one word in each line that does not belong in the same category as the other words.

A. cutlery: dessert spoon | fish knife | ladle | lid
B. crockery: candlestick | saucer | soup plate | tureen
C. glassware: carafe | champagne glass | chopsticks | wine glass
D. table linen: napkin | tablecloth | table runner | wine cooler
E. furniture: chair | dining table | sideboard | tray

Exercise 2
Underline the correct option in each sentence below.

A. Let’s invite Aunt Sally at / for dinner next Sunday.
B. Can you help me arrange / set the table, please?
C. Shall I pour / serve the soup?
D. The lamb is delicate / delicious. My compliments to the chef.
E. There’s ice cream for / to dessert — home-made, not shop-bought.
F. Would you like some cheese to round off / up the meal?

Exercise 3
Write the missing letters to complete the six words in the sentences below. All the words begin with a “c”.

A. I can’t cook, so I always hire a c______________ when I invite people for a meal.
B. He poured her some wine from the c______________, which stood on the sideboard.
C. Chinese food should be eaten with c______________, not with a knife and fork.
D. The main c______________ was fish, followed by lemon cake.
E. The salt c______________ is empty. Can you refill it, please?
F. All the c______________ can go in the dishwasher — except for the steak knives.

Dish
The word dish has a number of meanings. Here are some of them.

A dish is a flat, open container in which to cook or serve food:
- Who broke my lovely blue porcelain dish?

A dish is also food prepared in a particular way and served as part of a meal:
- Do you have any vegetarian dishes?

The dishes (plural) are all the plates, bowls, glasses, etc. that have been used for a meal and that need to be washed up afterwards:
- Let me help you wash the dishes.

If you dish something up or out, you put food into dishes or on to plates so that it can be eaten:
- Can you dish out the vegetables, please?