



Server

Other names for this job

Food and beverage server,
waiter or waitress

What do servers do?

Servers work in restaurants, bars and coffee shops. They take customers' orders. They serve food and drinks to customers. Many servers work part time.

Meet a server

Mark is a server. He works in a restaurant at a mall.

Here are things that Mark does:

- He puts glasses and cutlery on each table.
- The cook and servers work together as a team. For example, Mark asks the cook about the food specials for that day. The special is a turkey sandwich. It costs 75 cents less than the regular price.
- Mark gives menus to the customers. He tells them about the food specials.

- He takes customers' orders.
- He uses a computer. He enters the customers' orders. He prints the bill.
- He gets the food and drinks. He takes them to the customers.
- He asks customers, "How is your meal?" If there is a problem, Mark tries to fix it.
- Customers pay him with cash, credit cards or debit cards. Mark uses a credit card machine.





What is Mark's work like?

Mark works a split **shift**. He works from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. The restaurant is very busy at those times.

Mark stands and walks a lot. He eats his meals when the restaurant is not busy.



Do you want to be a server?

- You need to be healthy.
- You need to be clean. For example, your hands and fingernails must be clean. Your hair must be clean and tidy.
- You need to work well with **co-workers**. For example, with the cook and the other servers.
- You must **work well under pressure**. For example, sometimes Mark is very busy. He has to decide what to do first.
- You must be **patient**, cheerful and polite.
- You must be good at speaking with customers. You need to understand the customers.

What education do servers need?

- Servers often learn on the job. Some people work as kitchen helpers or food service helpers (buspersons). Then they may become servers.
- Servers don't need a high school **diploma**. Sometimes they have special training. For example, they take food safety courses.

You can ask your **career advisor** or tutor about working as a server. You can ask about training, too.

tip

Do you see words in **bold**?
You can look up these words at
alis.alberta.ca/ERdictionary.

What can servers do in the future?

Servers with **experience** can change jobs. For example, they can work in fancy restaurants. Then they may get more money in tips. Some servers become **supervisors**.

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How much does a server make?

A server makes between \$15.00 and \$17.32 per hour. Some servers work with liquor. Most servers get tips from customers.

Other jobs to think about

Bartenders work in bars and restaurants. They mix drinks. They serve wine, beer and liquor.

Food Service Helpers (Buspersons) work in restaurants and coffee shops. They help the servers. For example, food service helpers may put the cutlery (forks, knives and spoons) and dishes on the tables. They fill customers' glasses with water. They remove dirty dishes. They clean tables. They must be polite to the customers.

Kitchen helpers work in kitchens, restaurants, hospitals and other places. They keep kitchens clean. They prepare food. For example, they cut vegetables and slice meats for the cooks.

Do you want more information?

You can find the information below at alis.alberta.ca/occinfo. Or you can ask your career advisor or tutor.

- OCCinfo profile:
Food and Beverage Server
- Easy Reading Dictionary

You can also ask your career advisor or tutor about jobs that are like Server. 

