

LESSON 21

Châyi, Coffee & Ordering Basics

Sixty seconds about yourself? Done. Now the real test: a counter, a menu, a line behind you. Today Farsi hands you the smallest, politest order machine on earth — three gears, all tiny.

AFTER THIS LESSON YOU CAN...

- Order at a Persian café three polite ways: *ye châyi, lotfan · mikhâm · bedin*.
- Catch the waiter's question — *Chi mikhâin?* — and answer without panicking.
- Drink tea through a sugar cube, like two hundred years of teahouse tradition.

THE PHRASE MAP

châyi

tea

old friend — Lesson 9

ghahve

coffee

old friend — Lesson 3

âb

water

old friend — Lesson 2

shirini

sweets

old friend — Lesson 13

âbmive

juice

âb + mive — water-of-fruit

keik

cake

yes. really.

Ye châyi, lotfan.

A tea, please.

gear one

Ye ghahve mikhâm.

I want a coffee.

gear two

Ye âbmive bedin, lotfan.

A juice — give me, please.

gear three

bedin

give (me)

respectful plural — for staff

Chi mikhâin?

What would you like?

the question you'll hear back

ghahve-khune

teahouse

literally: coffee house

THE ORDER MACHINE — THREE POLITE GEARS

Gear 1 · ye + thing + lotfan → Ye châyî, lotfan. The whole sentence. Nobody needs more.

Gear 2 · add mikhâm (Lesson 17) → Ye ghahve mikhâm. Name it, want it.

Gear 3 · the polite push: **bedin**, lotfan → Ye âbmive bedin, lotfan. GIVE-me, respectfully.

Coming back at you: **Chi mikhâin?** — that's mikhâm wearing the respectful **-in** ending, the exact ending you know from **dârin** (L15) and **mirin** (L18).

THE SCENE — THE PERSIAN CAFÉ

SPEAKER	FARSI	ENGLISH
Leila	Sâm... ghahve-khune!	Sam... a teahouse!
Amir	Salâm âghâ, befarmâid!	Hello sir — what can I get you?
Sam	Amir?! Chetori?!	Amir?! How are you?!
Amir	Chi mikhâin, âghâ?	What would you like, SIR?
Sam	Ye châyî, lotfan.	A tea, please.
Amir	Shirini mikhâin?	Would you like sweets?
Sam	Âre — ye shirini! O... ye keik!	Yeah — a sweet! And... a cake!
Amir	Âbmive nemikhâin?	WON'T you want a juice?
Sam	Na, merci! Ye châyî, ye shirini, ye keik — lotfan!	No thanks! A tea, a sweet, a cake — please!
Amir	Bâshe, bâshe — befarmâid!	OK, OK — here you go!
Leila	Sâm — ghand!	Sam — the sugar cube!
Sam	Âhâ... ghand!	Ohh... the sugar cube!
Amir	Âfarin, âghâ!	Well done, sir!

NEW SMALL WORDS WORTH KEEPING

âghâ = sir — how staff address you, and you them (Lesson 2, promoted to service duty) · o = and — the tiny connector: châyî o keik · âhâ! = ohh, I see! · the offer-in-the-negative — Âbmive nemikhâin? — is warm insistence, not a no.

EXERCISES — PART 1

1 • Match

1. âbmive 2. keik 3. ghahve 4. châyî 5. shirini
a. coffee b. tea c. sweets d. juice e. cake

2 • Gear one

Order with ye ... lotfan — tea: _____ · coffee: _____ · juice: _____

3 • Gear two

"I want a cake." → _____ · "I want a tea." → _____

4 • Gear three

Give-me, politely — a coffee: _____

EXERCISES — PART 2

5 • The question

The waiter asks: “_____ mikhâin?” — and the -in ending shows _____ (hint: dârin, mirin)

6 • You're Sam (out loud)

Order a tea, a sweet, and a cake — one breath, lotfan on the end.

7 • True or false

a) bedin is rude. (T/F) b) A ghahve-khune mostly serves coffee. (T/F) c) The ghand gets stirred in with a spoon. (T/F)

8 • Your café run (out loud)

Invent your own order — three items, any gear you like. Then hear Chi mikhâin? in your head... and answer it.

- 1: 1-d · 2-e · 3-a · 4-b · 5-c
- 2: Ye châyî, lotfan · Ye ghahve, lotfan · Ye âbmive, lotfan
- 3: Ye keik mikhâm · Ye châyî mikhâm
- 4: Ye ghahve bedin, lotfan
- 5: Chi — the respectful plural you (same ending as dârin and mirin)
- 6: Ye châyî, ye shirini, ye keik — lotfan!
- 7: a) F — it's the polite one · b) F — tea, of course · c) F — between the teeth; no spoon

NEXT — LESSON 22: AT THE RESTAURANT (TA'ÂROF II)

A full Persian menu — kabâb kubide, ghormé-sabzi, polo — ordering for the whole table, asking for the check... and the legendary choreography of the Bill Battle.