

# Letter to Menoikeus translation by Peter Saint-Andre

Post by “Elli” of June 7, 2023 at 5:34 PM

## What is the appropriate way to call a waiter in a restaurant?

The french say: "garçon" that means literally "boy" and this has a bad meaning if we read the etymology of the word:

Garçon (n.) c. 1300, "a boy, a youth" (early 13c. as a surname), from Old French garçon "menial, servant-boy, page; man of base condition," ["in jocular use, 'lad'" - OED]; objective case of gars (11c.; Modern French garçon "boy, bachelor, single man; waiter, porter"). This comes, perhaps via Gallo-Romance, from Frankish \*wrakjo- or another Germanic source, from Proto-Germanic \*wrakjon (source also of Old High German recko, Old Saxon wrekkio "a banished person, exile;" English wretch). From c. 1400 as "young male servant, squire, page." Meaning "a waiter" (especially one in a French restaurant) is a reborrowing from 1788.

## How the greeks do call a waiter in a taverna?

The greeks call a waiter in a taverna as "paidi"/boy...

- Paidi, would you bring me another glass of wine please? oh my goodness, greeks call the waiters as slaves! 😏

## How the english do call a waiter in a restaurant ?

An english speaking person gave the following answer:

catching the waiter's eye and smiling

politely saying "Excuse me" when he is nearby or "Excuse me, when you have a moment" if he is busy with another table

Raising my hand and nodding or smiling if he is some way away.

What I do not recommend is what my brother-in-law's father did in a fancy French restaurant in London: snapping his fingers and bellowing "Garçon!" - eliciting the response: - **"Monsieur, I am not a dog!"** 😏

Another english speaking person gave this answer:

It depends on where you are and what the service is actually like. In the West a polite beckoning motion may have the appropriate effect, do that in Thailand and you will probably get punched... that beckoning motion? It's very rude in Thailand. In China the expected form is simply to bellow for a server something which would probably get you punched in America. I

would tend to observe what others around me do and follow their lead if I were unsure.

**How the japanish do call a waiter in a restaurant?**

A person who been living in Japan for about 20 years now... he points out the attached photo :

the japanish just press a button! LOL 😄