

# Numeracy in Hospitality

## Set Menus

### Transcript



**Narrator:** Catering for an event involves ordering and cooking food in large quantities. While it is important that no-one leaves the event hungry, at the same time the oversupply of food can be a costly mistake.

This chef is prepping for an upcoming event. He needs to have everything ordered for it today. The menu comprises main courses consisting of beef, fish or a vegetarian option. The function brief states that there will be 125 guests including five children. The children will have a special children's meal. Also, fifteen per cent of adult guests are vegetarian. All other guests will be served beef or fish alternately. This means that half of the non-vegetarian adult guests will be served fish and half will be served beef.

To get the ordering right, he needs to know how many of the main courses for the adult guests will be vegetarian and how many will be beef and fish. We can work this out by looking at the numbers from the function brief. Firstly, the number of adult guests is 120 as there are five children included in the total. We know that fifteen per cent of the adults have requested vegetarian meals, so how many are required? Using the calculator, 120 times fifteen per cent equals eighteen. That's how many vegetarian meals are required.

The beef and fish meals will each make up half of the remaining adult servings. So to calculate the numbers there, we subtract the number of vegetarian meals, eighteen, from the total number of adult meals. That's 120 minus eighteen, which equals 102. Then we divide 102 in half, or multiply it by fifty per cent, and that equals fifty-one. So fifty-one beef meals are needed and fifty-one fish meals are needed.

The stock ordering is not quite done. Each adult guest will also be given two small dinner rolls to accompany the meal. However, ten per cent of the guests attending have requested gluten-free dinner rolls. So how many gluten-free rolls and how many regular dinner rolls will be required for the function?

We will calculate this by first working out how many rolls will be needed in total. There are 120 adult guests and they are allocated two rolls each. 120 times two equals 240. We then calculate ten per cent of 240, either by shifting the decimal point one space to the left, which is the same as dividing the number by ten, or by using a calculator. 240 times ten per cent equals twenty-four. So if twenty-four gluten-free rolls are required, the number of regular rolls equals 240 minus twenty-four, equals 216.

Working in hospitality often involves problem-solving with basic mathematical calculations. Practising multiplication, division, subtraction and percentage calculations helps to make sure there is enough of the right meals to go around.