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Intermediate Student’s Book

Life

1.40

**W = Waiter**

**W:** Are you ready to order?

**A:** Erm, not quite.

**W:** No problem. Would you like something to drink while you decide?

**A:** Yes, please, just water’s fine for the moment.

**B:** Oh, this menu looks interesting. I love trying new dishes. What are plantain fritters?

**A:** Well, plantain is a kind of banana and a fritter is a fried dish – in this case, fried, mashed banana balls.

**B:** Do you mean like a sweet, dessert banana?

**A:** No, plantain is a type of savoury banana you eat as a vegetable. It’s quite a bland flavour, really.

**B:** OK. What about akkra? What’s that made from?

**A:** It’s made from a kind of bean called blackeyed peas. They’re fritters too.

**B:** Hmm. What do they taste like?

**A:** Well, akkra’s usually pretty hot and spicy.

**B:** Sounds good! I think I’ll try that. Now, what’s this – ackee and saltfish?

**A:** Where’s that?

**B:** In the main courses, at the top of the list.

**A:** Oh yes. I think ackee’s a kind of fruit that’s traditionally served with saltfish.

**B:** And saltfish?

**A:** That’s dried salted cod. You have to soak it in water before you cook it, but then it’s a bit like fresh cod. It doesn’t taste salty when it’s cooked.

**B:** OK. I might try that. What are you going to have?

**A:** I can’t make my mind up. Oh, here comes the waiter again.

**W:** Can I take your order now?

**A:** Yes, please. I’ll have the akkra to start with.

**B:** And I’ll have the same.

**W:** And for your main course?

**A:** I’d like to try the ackee and saltfish. Does it come with vegetables?

**W:** Yes, with plantain.

**A:** And how’s that cooked? Is it fried?

**W:** No, it’s boiled.

**A:** OK, that sounds fine.

**W:** And what about you, sir?

**B:** Can I have the goat curry, please?

**W:** Certainly.

**A:** I’ve never tried goat.

**B:** You can try some of mine when it comes. It’s like lamb, but the flavour’s a bit stronger.

**A:** OK, great.

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