# 20 Cheat Codes Every Restaurant Server Wishes They Knew

1. The 'Sidework Shuffle'
Cheat Code: Combine your sidework tasks with your table runs to save time. For example, if you’re refilling water, grab extra silverware, napkins, or condiments while you’re at it.

2. The 'Silent Approach'
Cheat Code: Master the art of reading body language. If customers are leaning in or talking quietly, approach softly or wait until they notice you. No one likes to be interrupted during a deep conversation.

3. 'VIP Radar'
Cheat Code: Identify the 'big tippers' early on—those who ask for recommendations, are friendly from the start, or dress particularly well. Go the extra mile for them.

4. The 'Perfect Pitch'
Cheat Code: Practice your menu pitches. Highlight two to three dishes you can describe with mouth-watering detail, making them hard to resist.

5. 'Table Awareness Mode'
Cheat Code: Always keep an eye on your tables from a distance. Catching a wave, a glance, or an empty glass from across the room shows you're attentive.

6. 'Upsell Ninja'
Cheat Code: Suggest a side, dessert, or premium drink when customers are undecided. Phrase it like a subtle recommendation rather than a sales pitch.

7. 'Split Bill Sorcery'
Cheat Code: Master the art of splitting bills evenly, even if customers didn't ask for it. Offer the option—it saves time and keeps groups happy.

8. 'The Memory Game'
Cheat Code: Train your memory to recall special requests and customer preferences without writing them down. Regulars will be impressed when you remember their usual order.

9. 'Silent Service Mode'
Cheat Code: Pre-bus tables quietly and efficiently without interrupting guests. Removing empty plates as soon as they're done keeps the table tidy and ready for the next course.

10. 'Menu Jedi Mind Trick'
Cheat Code: Suggest dishes based on the weather or time of day. For example, recommend lighter fare on hot days or heartier meals when it's chilly outside.

11. 'Tip Whisperer'
Cheat Code: Always give change in denominations that make tipping easy—provide a mix of smaller bills so customers can leave a tip without needing to ask for change again.

12. 'The Rescue Pitcher'
Cheat Code: Carry a pitcher or jug for quick water refills, so you don't need to return to the kitchen as often. It’s efficient and keeps customers hydrated.

13. 'Dessert Decoy'
Cheat Code: Mention dessert at the beginning of the meal, especially if there’s a special. Planting the seed early increases the chances of a sweet sale at the end.

14. 'Team Player Hack'
Cheat Code: Help out your fellow servers when you can. A quick assist with their table might mean they return the favor during your rush.

15. 'Extra Mile Glitch'
Cheat Code: Carry a small notepad for jotting down any customer requests that you might need to remember later—like a birthday or special occasion.

16. 'Non-Verbal Sync'
Cheat Code: Use subtle hand signals with the kitchen staff and other servers to communicate without needing to leave your section or disturb the customers.

17. 'Double Duty Tray'
Cheat Code: Learn to balance multiple items on one tray safely. This saves trips back and forth from the kitchen, making you more efficient.

18. 'Preemptive Strike'
Cheat Code: Anticipate needs before they’re voiced. Offer extra napkins, refill drinks before they’re empty, and check on side dish needs proactively.

19. 'Complain Defuser'
Cheat Code: If a customer starts to complain, listen fully without interrupting, then respond calmly and empathetically. Offer a solution before they ask for one.

20. 'Closing Time Time-Saver'
Cheat Code: Start closing tasks early if your tables are slowing down. Refill condiments, stock up supplies, and clear clutter so you can get out faster when the shift ends.