

# The New York Times

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**Op-Art**

**BEN SCHOTT**

## Terms of Service

Ever wondered how restaurant staff members communicate with one another? Or why some diners have curious letters appended to their reservations? In the first of a new series on private languages, we offer a selection of secret codes used in the dining rooms and in the kitchens of some of New York's finest establishments.

### THE MEATBALL SHOP

VARIOUS

#### FLIP A SWITCH

Reversing the fire on two tickets,  
to get one order cooked before another.  
(*"Flipping a switch on 23 and 35."*)

#### SLIDERS WEARING HATS

Those with melted cheese.

#### R.T.R. — Ready To Roll

A note appended to the meatballs in the  
walk-in when they're ready to be served.

#### BALLS TO THE WALL

The restaurant is packed.

#### YIPPY

Special ball and sauce of the day.