

Let's order our houses by coffeehouse standards

Five years ago, it seems there were no Starbucks in Nashville. Today, there are more Starbucks than songwriters.

Not only have they dominated the market appearing up and down every major thoroughfare in the Nashville area, but the employees have forced us to learn a new language to purchase a \$4 cup of coffee.

And, recently they changed the several words. For example, my drink of choice is a decaffeinated, sugar-free vanilla, non-fat latte, and I would prefer the largest cup possible, since the prevalent ingredient in the concoction is oxygen. To obtain said elixir, I have been programmed to request a venti (not a real word, maybe an abbreviation for ventilated as in full of air), decaf, skinny latte. If those words and only those words were enunciated, my order was delivered. If I uttered the word large, I was scolded and reminded that the sizes are tall, grande and venti.

Recently I made a phonetic attempt at my order and was once again reprimanded as a new dictum has been issued. Now, skinny means sugar-free, but not fat-free. So, my order has changed. What the heck? By the way, how they sell pastries for five bucks apiece that would be re-

Real estate

Richard Courtney



jected by Ms. Cheap's day-old bread company is insane.

However, since, as of late, Starbucks has been more successful than the real estate market, perhaps Realtors should take a page from the Starbucks employee manual and learn form it.

For example, houses should be categorized by square footage first. A dwelling under 1,000 square feet forever more shall be known as a dimmy as in diminutive. From 1000 to 1500, a midi, 1500 to 2500 getti (as in you're getting there as far as size goes), 2500 to 5,000 a mady (you have made it), 5,000 to 10,000 a Jeddy in honor of Jed Clampett, and over 10,000 as an exi for exorbitant.

As for lot size, the word acre is unattractive and harsh. And, since the buyer is buying grass anyway, why not refer to acreage by the pound. It could be pushing the limits to suggest that buyers ask to buy a pound

of grass, or weeds either for that matter. So, the land shall have no name. It will be by the pound.

A bedroom is a be as in "to be or not to be" and a bath is a baa as in "baa, baa, black sheep." Central heat and air has been shortened to HVAC, heating, ventilating, and air conditioning, but that is too long, so we'll go with cha as in cha cha cha. Energy efficient CHA would be green. The garage is easy enough as a "g," and the cars and trucks will be "v" for vehicle.

Therefore a buyer would tell his Realtor that he wanted a midi, three-be, twoba, with green cha, a 3vg, on a pound and a half, dine in — for carry out would refer to a mobile home. That, of course is a 1,000- to 1,500-square-foot, three bedroom, two bath, centrally cooled and heated with an energy efficient system, three car garage, home situated on an one and a half acre.

Richard Courtney is the principal broker with Fridrich and Clark Realty's Music Row office and can be reached at www.richardCourtney.com. He lives in a threebe, twoba, cha, on a half pound.