
English Vocabulary - Parties and Celebrations

1) Theme/Costume/Fancy dress party

When you are invited to this type of party, you have to go dressed (a costume) according to a theme, for example: "When the boat went down", "The 70s", "Underwear", "Pirates", "Vicars and Tarts", etc.



2) Dinner party

As the name suggests, this is a formal occasion, when friends or colleagues meet around a table in the evening, share a meal, wine and talk.

3) Birthday party

Friends and family meet to celebrate one more year of life. Usually, much food and drink is consumed! At children's parties, games are often played. It is customary to take a present for the party host.

4) Anniversary party

This is to commemorate another year of marriage. It can be celebrated at lunchtime or in the evening. If it is in the evening, there is usually music and wine, and people wear formal clothes. It is customary to take a small present for the party hosts.

5) Wedding party

A party to celebrate marriage, usually on the same day as the wedding. It can be at lunchtime, in the afternoon or in the evening, depending on the time of the wedding ceremony. It is customary to take a present and to wear formal clothes.

6) Housewarming party

A party to celebrate the purchase/rent of a house or apartment. The name comes from the fact that many people in one place can help to "warm" the property. The name probably originated in a cold country, such as England or the northern states of the USA. It is customary to take a present for the party host, usually something for the house.

7) Beach party

This is just an excuse to have some fun on the beach with some friends - eating, drinking, playing beach games, dancing and conversing. Note that in some countries, such as Australia, alcohol on beaches is prohibited.

8) Barbecue (BBQ)

A very common type of party in Australia and Brazil, where much meat is consumed. It usually takes place during the day, but may continue at night. In Australia, it is customary to take your own meat.

9) Tea party

A common type of party in the UK, this is a meeting of friends in the afternoon to share tea, biscuits, cakes, sandwiches and conversation! It can be in the house or garden, depending on the weather.



10) Tailgate party

At concerts and sporting events in the USA, it is common to eat and drink with your friends and family while you wait for the show or event to begin. The tailgate of your car is used as a base for serving food and drinks.



11) Garden party

This is similar to a tea party, but it happens in a garden, probably under cover, such as a gazebo.

12) Fund raising party

An event to raise money for a charitable organization. It can take various forms, for example a garden party or a formal dinner. You usually have to pay a small fee to enter.

13) Prom (USA) / Graduation party (UK)

An event to celebrate graduation from high school, college or university. It is usually an evening event with formal dress.

14) Baby shower

This is an informal party for women to celebrate the arrival of a baby, and usually happens in a private home. It is customary to take a present for the baby, typically diapers or baby clothes.

15) Bridal shower

This is an informal party for women to celebrate a marriage, and usually happens in a private home. It is customary to take a present for the bride, typically something for the kitchen.

16) Pajama/Slumber party

This type of party is popular with children. Some friends come to your house to sleep over, and spend time together before sleeping, playing games, eating snacks and talking!

17) Stag night

This is to celebrate the last night of a single man before he marries. It usually involves going out, eating, drinking and having a good time. It is tradition in the USA and the UK to employ a stripper to do a show.

18) Hen night

This is the equivalent of a stag night, but for women.

19) Pot luck

This is a meeting of friends for lunch, afternoon tea or dinner. Each person takes a dish of food, and everybody shares the food. The name of the party is 'pot luck' because it is not known what food people will take.



20) Christmas party

This is a party to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, a religious commemoration. It usually involves a big lunch or dinner for the family. It is commemorated by many non-religious people, too.

21) New Year's Eve party

This is an event to welcome the new year. It is common to have fireworks and sparkling wine at midnight.

22) Barn Dance

This is a meeting of friends and neighbors to dance to traditional music, eat, drink and generally have a good time. It was originally held in a barn, hence the name. People usually wear country-style clothes such as jeans, checked shirts and hats.

