

# 3

## PARTIES



### READING

#### Before You Read



*You have attended parties several times so far. As a Vietnamese, are you sure you have had courtesy manners at a party table? Add two more Vietnamese table manners that you should observe at a party in your locality.*

1. The blunt ends of the chopsticks are sometimes used to transfer food from a common dish to your own plate or bowl (never to your mouth).
2. Decide what to pick up before reaching it with chopsticks. Do not hover or poke around looking for special ingredients. After you have picked up an item, do not put it back in the dish.
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading Text

Read the extract and do the tasks that follow.

### Table Manners

A party is a social gathering intended primarily for celebration and recreation. Parties provide numerous opportunities for social interaction of various kinds, depending on the participants and their understanding of the accepted behavior for a given occasion. As a result, they tend to reinforce cultural standards. The purpose of a party is to bring together a group of people in a congenial atmosphere. All personal relationships are made pleasanter by simple good manners. This is especially true of table manners, a type of etiquette used when eating. Different cultures have different standards for table manners. The following are a few basic British table manners.

- Chew with the mouth closed, and do not talk while chewing.
- Elbows must not rest upon the table while any food is present.
- If at all possible, refrain from coughing or sneezing at the table, and, if need be, excuse yourself.
- Soup is to be lifted by the spoon in movements away from yourself, not toward.
- Fingers are not to be used except in the case of bread and other similar foods.
- While you are still eating your meal, put your cutlery to the side of your plate at the four and eight o'clock positions, on opposite sides of the plate, then the waiter won't remove your plate. Put your cutlery at the twelve o'clock position when you have finished.
- After cutting the food and carrying it to the mouth, cross the cutlery diagonally on the plate and place your hands on your lap until the mouthful is completely finished. Preparing the next mouthful while still eating the one before is unacceptable.
- The fork is used to carry any solid food to the mouth.
- The teaspoon must be removed from the cup before drinking.
- Do not lick your knife.
- The napkin is kept on the lap and never tucked into the collar.

- a) Complete the table with what you should observe and what you shouldn't when attending a British-hosted party. The first one has been done for you.

	Do's	Don'ts
1.	Chew with the mouth closed.	Talk while chewing.
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		

- b) Read the extract again. Explain what the italicized words in the following sentences refer to.

1. As a result, *they* tend to reinforce cultural standards.
2. This is especially true of table manners, *a type of etiquette* used when eating.
3. *The following* are a few basic British table manners.

- c) Find words or phrases in the extract that express meanings similar to those provided.

1. raised \_\_\_\_\_
2. protocol \_\_\_\_\_
3. knives, forks, scissors \_\_\_\_\_
4. friendly and sociable \_\_\_\_\_

- d) Work in groups. Discuss some common Vietnamese table manners you should explain to a foreign guest.





LISTENING

a) Match the pictures with the words.

a



b



c



d



e



- 1. soft drink \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. birthday cake \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. gifts \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. buffet \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. savories \_\_\_\_\_

b) Listen to the first part of the recording. Check (✓) whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

- |   | T                        | F                        |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. There were approximately 6.54 billion people on Earth as of July 2005.               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. There would be a birthday celebration every 0.005 second.                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. A child's party usually consists of soft drinks and sweet foods as well as savories. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Adults' parties are often held in restaurants with delicious dishes.                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

c) Listen to the second part of the recording. Give short answers to the following questions.

1. What are birthday parties in the USA often accompanied by?
2. What does the person whose birthday is celebrated do before blowing out the candles on the birthday cake?

d) Work in groups. Plan a New Year party. The following are helpful to your preparation: invitations, foods and drinks, games.

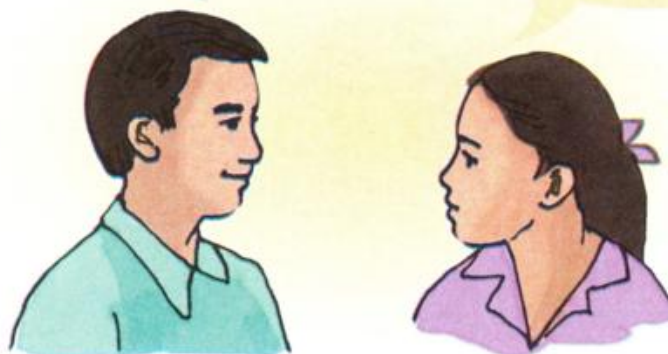


## SPEAKING

### Planning a Party

What should we do for our farewell party?

We need to decide on the guest list, and then the way to serve foods and drinks.



- a) *Work in groups. Read the following helpful list of things for a party preparation and add two more things that you think necessary.*

**Helpful list of things for a party preparation**

- Deciding on the guest list
- Deciding on the way to serve foods and drinks: buffet (guests can make their own selection) or a sit-down meal (fixed menu)
- Planning entertainments: playing games, listening to records, watching video / TV shows, etc.
- Arranging some persons to keep the party moving smoothly: greeting guests, disposing of wraps, answering telephone calls, introducing guests, etc.

- b) *Work in pairs. Practice the dialogue.*

A: What is our plan for the farewell party?

B: Well, we'll invite about a dozen guests and have a sit-down meal.

A: How about entertainment?

B: We're going to have some music and a video show.

A: And everyone's duty?

B: All right, you'll greet the guests and show them to their seats. Hoa will be in the kitchen with me. I'll be the chef. Mai and Minh will serve the foods and drinks. Nam will take care of the guests' vehicles.

- c) *Work in pairs. Plan your coming birthday party.*





## WRITING

### Writing a Letter of Invitation and a Response

a) Read the following letters. What kind of letter is each one?

1

*Ha Noi, December 10, 20\_\_*

*Dear Minh*

*My English-Speaking Club is giving a buffet at the following address - 81 Tran Hung Dao Street, Ha Noi, Sunday, December 23, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., to welcome the three American guest speakers.*

*Your presence at the event is highly appreciated.*

*Bring along some of your friends who can speak English if you want to.*

*Please let me know if you will join us.*

*Affectionately*

*Mary*

2

*Ha Noi, December 14, 20\_\_*

*Dear Mary*

*I am very happy to accept your kind invitation to the buffet at 81 Tran Hung Dao Street, Ha Noi, Sunday, December 23, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., to welcome the three American guest speakers.*

*I'm going to take two of my friends with me. We look forward to the occasion with pleasure.*

*Sincerely yours*

*Minh*

3

Ho Chi Minh City, December 16, 20\_\_

Dear Mary

You are very sweet to invite me to the buffet at 81 Tran Hung Dao Street, Ha Noi, Sunday, December 23, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., to welcome the three American guest speakers.

But my cousins, who live in the USA, are coming in on that day and we have made our plans to go out of the city.

Thank you very much for your invitation, and I hope we can get together on other occasions.

Sincerely

Minh

- Letter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Letter 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Letter 3 \_\_\_\_\_

b) Read the tips on writing letters of invitation and responses. Identify the points in the letters in a) by putting notes in the margins of the letters.

**Letters of invitation should include:**

- reason for party
- address
- date and day of week
- time to arrive
- time to leave
- if a special activity is planned
- request for a reply

**Letters of acceptance should:**

- confirm attendance at the event
- thank for the invitation
- show interest in the event
- promise to come



**Letters of refusal should:**

- thank for the invitation
- express regret for not attending the event
- explain the reason
- promise to participate in other events in the future

- c) 1. You are going to celebrate your birthday. Write a letter of invitation. State the event, place, time, and special activities if available.
2. Imagine you receive the above letter of invitation to a birthday party. Write a letter of acceptance or refusal.



**LANGUAGE FOCUS**

**Word Study**

**Compound Nouns: Noun + Noun**

- a) Read the definitions and write equivalent compound nouns. The first one has been done for you.

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. a party to celebrate one's birthday | <u>a birthday party</u> |
| 2. a motorbike used as a taxi          | _____                   |
| 3. a station from which trains leave   | _____                   |
| 4. a card that gives invitation        | _____                   |
| 5. a pot containing flowers            | _____                   |
| 6. clothes for working in              | _____                   |
| 7. a desk giving information           | _____                   |

- b) Match a noun in column A with one in column B to form a compound noun. Then make sentences with these compound nouns. For some items, more than one combination is possible.

- | <b>A</b>    | <b>B</b>    |       |
|-------------|-------------|-------|
| 1. milk     | a. station  | _____ |
| 2. car      | b. guest    | _____ |
| 3. birthday | c. driver   | _____ |
| 4. house    | d. race     | _____ |
| 5. guest    | e. terminal | _____ |
| 6. train    | f. house    | _____ |
| 7. bus      | g. party    | _____ |
| 8. taxi     | h. man      | _____ |

## Grammar

## Base Form of Verb or to + Base Form of Verb

- a) Fill in each blank with the correct form (base form of verb or to + base form of verb) of the verbs in the box. There is a verb used more than once. The first one has been done for you.

hang	see	come	invite
find	have	leave	

Mary: Hi! Nam. You managed (0) *to find* your way then?

Nam: Yes, in the end. There were a lot of traffic jams and the weather was very wet.

Mary: Well, you're here now. Let me (1) \_\_\_\_\_ up your raincoat.

Nam: Thank you.

Mary: I'm glad you decided (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to my party. Everyone seems (3) \_\_\_\_\_ a good time. I decided (4) \_\_\_\_\_ many people. Well, "the more the merrier."

Nam: Has Linda come?

Mary: Well, she said she couldn't (5) \_\_\_\_\_. She'd already made an appointment (6) \_\_\_\_\_ her doctor for a minor surgery.

Nam: And Lien?

Mary: Yes. She came early, but she seemed (7) \_\_\_\_\_ early, too. She was here with her boyfriend.

- b) The following is an extract of suggestions for parents having teens attending a party away from home. Use the correct form of the verbs in parentheses.

- Stress to your teen that if plans change, they need (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (let) you (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (know). Give them a phone number where you can be reached.
- Rehearse what to do if they want (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (leave). Encourage them (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (call) you for a ride if needed.
- Remind your teen never (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (ride) with anyone who has been drinking alcohol or using drugs.
- Stay up until your teen comes home or tell them (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (wake) you up when they arrive.

### To + Base Form of Verb or -ing Form of Verb

Fill in each blank with **to + base form of verb** or **-ing form of verb** to complete the dialogue. The first ones have been done for you.

*Linda:* Where are we going to have our party?

*Minh:* Haven't we all decided (1) *to organize* (organize) our party at Maxim's on the beach?

*John:* Lovely. I enjoy (2) *watching* (watch) the sea at sunset. I might manage (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (take) some seascape photos with my newly-bought camera.

*Mai:* I love parties. I can't resist (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (attend) a party. There might be a lot of fun, particularly at the seaside.

*Mary:* I really dislike (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the seaside because of the wind and salty atmosphere there.

*Lan:* Well, I don't mind (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the beach, but I'm a little bit carsick.

*John:* Lan, you promised (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (attend) the party with me. I'm planning to borrow my brother's motorbike.

*Lan:* Oh, did I? But I can't stand (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) behind you all the way to the beach.

*Hoa:* I'm afraid I can't justify (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (take) all that time off from my studies.