

INVITATIONS AND MAKING PLANS

In this lesson you will learn how to make plans and future arrangements.

1 WARM UP

Study the images. Match the words from the box to the correct image.

Wedding
Halloween party

Birthday party
Sports event

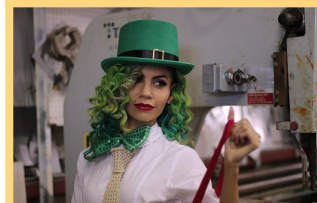
Christmas party
St. Patrick's Day



1. **Wedding**

2. **Halloween party**

3. **Christmas party**



4. **Birthday party**

5. **St. Patrick's Day**

6. **Sports event.**

Task 2: Rank the events from your favourite to least favourite.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____



2 HOW TO INVITE SOMEONE

Study the most common communication methods people use when sending invitations.

email text message social media message phone call invitation card

Which communication method from the box above is most appropriate when inviting people to the following events?

1. Wedding _____.
2. Birthday party _____.
3. Christmas party _____.
4. Halloween party _____.
5. Sports event _____.
6. St. Patrick's Day _____.

Discuss: Why does the communication method for the different events?

3 WHAT ARE THEY TRYING TO SAY?

Read the information in each box below, then decide if the person is either:

- Inviting someone
- Declining an invitation
- Making arrangements
- Accepting an invite
- Suggesting a time
- Changing the plan

a) **Making arrangements.**

Shall we meet at the train station or would you like to meet in a different place? How about we make a reservation at Don Julio?

b) **Inviting someone.**

Hi Hannah, I would like to invite you to my birthday party. Are you free on Wednesday at 6pm? We are going to meet at my house. Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

c) **Changing the plans.**

I know we agreed to meet at the pizza restaurant but I don't feel hungry now. Instead of going to the pizza restaurant, let's go straight to the pub instead?

d) **Suggesting a time.**

How about we meet on Thursday at 6 pm? Let's try to find a time that works better for both of us. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

e) **Accepting an invite.**

Thank you so much for inviting me to your party. I'm super excited for it! The date and time work perfectly for me. Please let me know if I need to bring anything with me.

f) **Declining an invitation.**

I'm sorry, but I can't make it to the sports events. Unfortunately, I have plans already, and that doesn't work for me.



4 LET'S STUDY THE KEY LANGUAGE

Study the key phrases in the tables below, then complete the exercises.

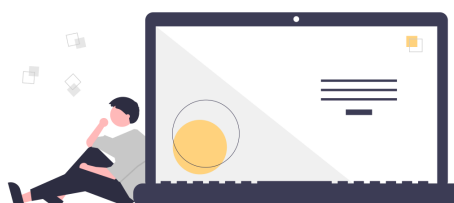
Inviting someone Would you like to come to...? I would like to invite you to... Are you free on...? How about we...?	Declining an invitation I'm sorry, but I can't make it. Unfortunately, I have plans already. That doesn't work for me. Maybe another time.
Accepting an invite Yes, that sounds great. I'd love to. That works for me. I'm available then.	Suggesting a time How about... instead? Do you want to meet at ...? Let's try to find a time that works better for both of us.
Making arrangements Shall we meet at...? Where would you like to go? What time would be convenient for you? How about we make a reservation at...?	Changing the plan I'm sorry, but I need to cancel our plans. Unfortunately, something came up, so I won't be able to make it. I think it would be better if we... Instead of... let's...

Task. Each member of the class must invite a friend to a party / event of their choice from Exercise 1 and choose the communication method from Exercise 2. In the invitation, you must include the following:

- what the event is
- where the event is
- who is going
- what time it starts

Extension: Take turns replying to each invitation in various ways. In your replies, you must:

1. Accept the invite.
2. Suggest a new time.
3. Decline the invite.
4. Change the plan.



5 DIALOGUE: MAKING PLANS

Task: Complete the dialogue using the words in the box.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how about Friday night instead • would you like to come to • Unfortunately, I have plans already • How about we make a reservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shall we meet at • See you then • How about we reschedule for |
|---|---|

Nathan: Hey, **would you like to come to** the concert with me this weekend?

Nick: I would love to! When is it?

Nathan: It's on Saturday evening. Are you free then?

Nick: **Unfortunately, I have plans already** for Saturday. How about we try another day?

Nathan: Sure, **how about Friday instead?**

Nick: That works for me. **Shall we meet at** the concert hall at 7 pm?

Nathan: Great! Let's meet there. Oh, and do you have any preference for where we sit?

Nick: No. **How about we make a reservation** for two in the middle section?

Nathan: Okay, I'll do that. Thanks for suggesting it.

Nick: Actually, I'm sorry to say, but something just came up for Friday night, and I won't be able to make it.

Nathan: No problem at all. Maybe another time?

Nick: Definitely! **How about we reschedule for** next week?

Nathan: Sure, how about we go to the art museum on Wednesday afternoon?

Nick: That sounds great. What time works for you?

Nathan: How about 2 pm?

Nick: That works for me. Let's meet at the entrance.

Nathan: Of course, I'm glad we could find another time. **See you then!**

6 LET'S USE THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS

Read the conversation below and underline examples of the present continuous.

Nathan: What are you doing this weekend?

Hannah: I am visiting my parents.

Nathan: That sounds nice. Are you staying for long?

Hannah: No, I am just going for a day.

Study the conversation below and answer the following questions:

1. Are they talking about present or future plans?
2. Is it possible to use the present continuous when talking about future plans?
3. How are questions formed in the present continuous tense?

Now, study Nathan's diary for next week. Complete the sentences and questions with the present continuous tense. Use the verbs in brackets.

Monday	Prepare for a job interview.
Tuesday	Go to a job interview at 3:00 pm in the city centre.
Wednesday	Go to my grandad's house for dinner.
Thursday	Go shopping to buy new clothes.
Friday	Buy food and drinks for the party.
Saturday	Go to my best friend's birthday party at 8 pm.
Sunday	Help my friend tidy his house.

1. **Are you preparing** for an interview on Tuesday? (prepare)
2. No, **I'm preparing** for an interview on Monday. (prepare)
3. Where **are you buying** food and drinks on Friday? (buy)
4. His best friend's party **is starting** at 8pm on Saturday. (start)
5. Who **are you helping** on Sunday? (help)
6. **Are you buying** new clothes on Thursday? (buy)
7. Where **are you going** on Wednesday? (go)

What are you doing this weekend? Study the list below, then talk about your weekend plans with a partner. Use the example conversation as a guide.

1. go shopping.
2. help friends.
3. go to a party.
4. clean the house.
5. play video games.
6. visit relatives.
7. ride your bike.
8. do homework.

Examples A:

Nathan: What are you doing this weekend?

Hannah: I'm visiting my family in London.

Study the plane ticket, then answer the questions which use the present continuous.



1. When is he going? **He is going to Los Angeles.**
2. Where is he going? **He is going to New Delhi**
3. Where is he sitting? **He is sitting in seat 5A**
4. What gate is the plane boarding from? **It is boarding from gate H22**
5. What time is boarding? **He is boarding at 07:45**



7
ROLE PLAY

Act out each scenario with a classmate. Use all the language and techniques from today's class wherever possible. Take turns playing each role.


Role 1

You are hosting a party next Saturday and want to invite your friend, Jane.

Role 2

You are Jane, and you would like to attend the party but need to check your schedule before committing.


Role 1

You want to schedule a meeting with your colleague, Sarah, to discuss a project.

Role 2

You are Sarah and are available to meet but need to check your schedule.


Role 1

You want to plan a weekend trip to the beach with your friend, Mark.

Role 2

You are Mark and are interested in going but need to check with your family.



8 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

As a class, discuss the following questions as a class.

1. How do you usually invite your friends to go out with you? Do you prefer to invite them in person, by phone, or by text message?
2. If someone invites you to an event or activity that you're not interested in, how do you turn down the invitation without hurting their feelings?
3. What's the most memorable invitation you've received? What was it for and who invited you?
4. How far in advance do you usually make plans with your friends? Do you like to plan things far ahead or do you prefer to be spontaneous?
5. Do you think it's important to confirm plans with someone after you've made arrangements with them? Why or why not?
6. How do you feel when someone cancels plans with you at the last minute? Is it a big deal or do you understand that things come up sometimes?
7. What's the best way to suggest a different activity or location to someone who has already invited you somewhere? How can you do it without sounding rude or ungrateful?
8. How do you usually respond when someone asks you to do something, but you're not sure if you'll be able to make it? Do you say yes and then cancel if something comes up, or do you say no upfront?
9. Have you ever been invited to a party or event where you didn't know anyone else? How did you feel about it and what did you do to make new friends?
10. Do you prefer to make plans with one friend at a time or in a group? Why?
11. How do you usually react when someone invites you to something that's too expensive for you? Do you decline the invitation, suggest a cheaper alternative?
12. Have you ever been invited to a special occasion like a wedding or graduation ceremony? What did you wear and how did you prepare for the event?



HOMework

1 WRITING TASK

Study the following situation. You receive the following message from a friend.

You are planning a casual get-together with your friend, but you need to invite them and make some arrangements. Write a dialogue between you and your friend that includes inviting them, declining an invitation, making arrangements, accepting an invite, suggesting a time, and changing the plan.

Use the following prompts to guide your dialogue:

- You want to invite your friend to a picnic in the park on Saturday.
- Your friend declines the invitation because they have a family event on Saturday.
- You suggest having the picnic on Sunday instead.
- Your friend accepts the invitation and suggests bringing some snacks.
- You agree and suggest meeting at 1 pm.
- Your friend says that they might be running late, and you suggest changing the meeting time to 2 pm.

Please include appropriate greetings, farewells, and polite expressions

Word count: 150-200 words.

You are planning a surprise birthday party for your friend, and you need to invite some of their closest friends and make arrangements. Write a dialogue between you and one of your friend's close friends that includes inviting them, declining an invitation, making arrangements, accepting an invite, suggesting a time, and changing the plan.

Use the following prompts to guide your dialogue:

- You want to invite your friend's close friend to the surprise party on Friday.
- Your friend's close friend declines the invitation because they are busy.
- You suggest having the party on Saturday evening instead.
- Your friend's close friend accepts the invitation and suggests bringing a gift.
- You agree and suggest meeting at 6 pm.
- Your friend's close friend says that they have some work to finish and might be late, and you suggest changing the meeting time to 7 pm.

Include appropriate greetings, farewells, and polite expressions in your dialogue.

Word count: 150-200 words.

2 LET'S MAKE PLANS: DIALOGUE

Complete the dialogue using the words in the box.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where is your place • cancel our plans for Sunday • How about 1 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you free then • Let's reschedule for another time • should we make the reservation for |
|--|--|

- Beth:** Hey, I was wondering if you're free this weekend. Would you like to have dinner with me?
- Jack:** I'd love to! What day would you like to go out?
- Beth:** I would prefer to go out on Saturday. **Are you free then?**
- Jack:** Actually, I already have plans for Saturday. That doesn't work for me. How about Sunday instead?
- Beth:** Sunday works for me too. How about we meet at my place around 3 pm?
- Jack:** That sounds great! **Where is your place?**
- Beth:** It's at 123 Main Street. How about we make a reservation at the Italian restaurant down the street for dinner?
- Jack:** That sounds good to me. What time **should we make the reservation for?**
- Beth:** How about 7 pm?
- Jack:** 7 pm works for me. I'm looking forward to it!
- Beth:** Great! I'll see you on Sunday then.

Later that day

- Beth:** I'm sorry, but I need to **cancel our plans for Sunday**. Unfortunately, something came up, so I won't be able to make it.
- Jack:** No problem. **Let's reschedule for another time**. Are you free next weekend?
- Beth:** Next weekend works for me. How about we meet at the park instead?
- Jack:** Sure, that sounds good. What time would be convenient for you?
- Jack:** **How about 1pm?**
- Beth:** 1 pm works for me too. See you then!