



Live Lesson Notes

Parties

Contents

1. Useful links
2. IELTS Speaking Vocabulary: Parties
3. Listening Activity
4. Idioms

Some useful links

Join the **GOLD** course and improve your spoken English with the **Speaking Success System**

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Different **types of parties**

<https://gamma.app/docs/Types-of-Parties-A-Celebration-for-Every-Occasion-vkvi7w0wtrx8c9j>

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Warm Up

When do people have a party in your country?

Birthdays
Graduations
Retirement
Anniversaries (e.g. of weddings)

Weddings

- Engagement (when you decide to get married)
- Bridal shower (party for bride and friends)
- Stag do (party for groom and friends)
- Hen do (another party for bride and friends)
- Wedding reception (party on the wedding day)

Company events

- Networking
- Product launches

Cultural / religious parties

- Christmas
- Eid
- Ramadan
- Diwali
- Nowruz
- Yom Kippur
- Lunar New Year

National celebrations

- Independence Day
- Coronations

International days

- Woman's day
- Teacher's day
- Children's day

Here is a **simple presentation** of different types of parties
<https://gamma.app/docs/Types-of-Parties-A-Celebration-for-Every-Occasion-vkvi7w0wtrx8c9j>

IELTS Speaking Vocabulary: Parties

1. To **celebrate** (v.) /ˈsel.ə.breɪt/

= to acknowledge a special moment with an enjoyable activity

To celebrate **something**

To celebrate **someone**

*Let's celebrate your birthday **in style**.*

I'd like to celebrate Sarah for all her hard work.

Note: '**Celebrate**' is often used in the passive
(Passive) = To be + past participle

We celebrate Christmas in England [Active]

👉 Christmas **is** widely **celebrated** in England [Passive]

We eat fish and chips a lot in England [Active]

👉 Fish and chips **is eaten** a lot in England [Passive]

2. A **celebration** (n.) /ˌsel.əˈbreɪ.ʃən/

To **organise** a celebration

To **hold** a celebration

To **join in** a celebration

Your new promotion calls for a celebration!

To **host** a party = to be the host, inviting people to the party

To **throw** a party

Similar words

Festivity (n.) (usually plural - festivities)

3. To cater (v.) /'keɪ.tər/
= to provide food for an event

*We need a company to **cater for/at** the party.*

The **catering** (n. U.) /'keɪ.tər.ɪŋ/

*Who did the catering at your party?
The catering at the party was great.*

4. To catch up with someone (v.)
= to chat with someone to learn what has happened in their life

I caught up with my friends at the party.

Similar words (meaning to talk to people at a party)

To mingle = to mix and talk to people
To socialise
To make small talk

*I mingled with lots of interesting people last night.
I love to socialise at parties.
I made lots of small talk whilst mingling.*

Listening Activity

Listen to Tom and Emily talking about a recent party they went to.



<https://on.soundcloud.com/G8jfnCGXwBk5uHhR8>

1) Who liked the party the most?

Answers at bottom of PDF

2) Listen to the conversation again. Fill the gaps with ONE missing word you hear.

1. Go with the _____
2. He really went to _____
3. I could _____ hear myself think
4. The catering was _____
5. Standing _____ in the corner
6. Trying to avoid small _____

Answers at bottom of PDF

3) Listen to the conversation again, and read the script.

Full script on next page

Full Script

Tom and Emily Talk About a Party

Tom: That party last night was amazing! I had such a great time. The music was fantastic, and everyone was in such **a good mood** (=feeling positive and happy)

Emily: Hmm... I wouldn't say it was amazing. It was loud, crowded, and exhausting. I don't know how you enjoy these things so much.

Tom: Come on, Emily! It was fun. You just need to chill and **go with the flow** (=let things happen) Plus, it was a special occasion—Mark's birthday. He put a lot of effort into organising it.

Emily: I know, he really **went to town** (=make a big effort) and I appreciate that. I was happy to celebrate with him, but do we really need to have a hundred people squeezed into one room with music blasting? **I could barely hear myself think!**

Tom: That's what makes it great! Everyone was chatting, dancing, laughing. I **caught up with** so many old friends. And did you see the food? **The catering was top-notch** (= the food and service were very good)

Emily: I did see the food. That was probably the best part—those little canapés were delicious. But I barely spoke to anyone. It felt like every conversation was just people shouting over the music.

Tom: Oh, you're impossible! You just have to embrace the chaos. Parties are all about energy, meeting new people, and making memories.

Emily: Or standing **awkwardly** (=uncomfortably) in the corner, trying to avoid **small talk**. But I have to admit, Mark seemed really happy, and the cake was incredible.

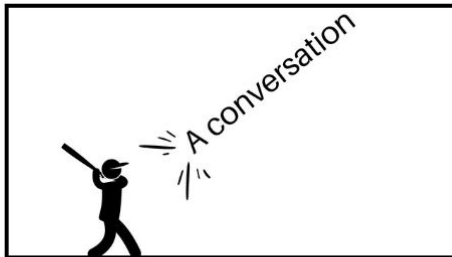
Tom: Exactly! So, deep down, you had a tiny bit of fun, right?

Emily: Hmm... maybe just a little. But next time, can we go somewhere quieter?

IELTS Speaking Idioms: Parties

Can you guess these idioms?

1



2



3



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Answers at bottom of PDF

ANSWERS

Listening Activity

Answers

1) Who liked the party the most?

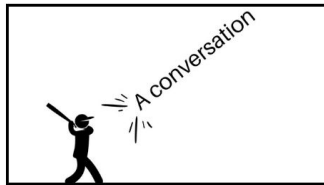
Tom

2) Fill in the gaps

1. Go with the **flow** = let things happen
2. He really went to **town** = to make a big effort
3. I could **barely** hear myself think. = hardly
4. The catering was **top-notch** = very good
5. Standing **awkwardly** in the corner = not comfortably
6. Trying to avoid small **talk** = chit chat = talking about everyday things (e.g. the weather)

IELTS Speaking Idioms: Parties

1



2



3



1. To strike up a conversation

= to start a conversation

I find it hard to strike up a conversation with strangers at parties.

2. To have a blast

= to have a great time

I had a blast at their wedding.

Similar Idioms

- **To have a ball**

I had a ball last night at Jane's party.

- **To have a whale of a time**

You should come to my party tomorrow, you'll have a whale of a time!

- **To have the time of your life**

I had the time of my life at your party.

3. To be in full swing

= to be at the most active moment

The party was in full swing when we arrived.