



Inviting and dealing with invitations phrases and speaking practice game

What language can you use for inviting people? How do those phrases differ from each other?

Phrases for inviting people

What language can you use for accepting an invitation?

Phrases for accepting an invitation

What language can you use to refuse? How can you make refusal more polite?

Phrases for refusing an invitation

What language can you use to acknowledge someone accepting your invitation?

Phrases to use after your invitation is accepted

What language can you use to acknowledge someone refusing your invitation?

Phrases for accepting a refusal

What language can you use to persuade them more or suggest another arrangement?

Phrases for not giving up when your invitation is refused

Compare your phrases with the suggested ones on the next two pages.

Try to find a polite way of refusing your partner's invitation. If they give up asking, you get one point. If you eventually accept the invitation, they get one point.

Practise similar exchanges by phone and then by email (just saying what you would say in each email rather than writing).



Suggested answers

Phrases for inviting people

(Do you have) any plans for...?

(Do you) fancy/ want to...?

Are you free this.../ on...?/ If you're free.....

Have you got time to... (with me/ us)?

How about...?/ Why don't we...?

I know how busy you are/ it's short notice but...

I thought you might enjoy...

I was wondering if you'd like to/ Would you like to... (with me/ us)...?

I'd like to (formally) invite you to...

We're _____ ing (later/ tonight/ on Saturday), if you'd like to come along/ if you'd like to tag along/ if you fancy it.

Phrases for accepting an invitation

(That sounds) great. (See you there/ then).

Count me in!

I'd love to.

That sounds like just my kind of thing. When shall we meet?

Phrases for refusing an invitation

Ask me again..., for sure.

Did you say...? That's a shame, I...

It's (such) a shame (because...) but...

It's so nice of you to invite me, but...

I'd love to, but.../ I would have loved to, but...

I'm afraid...

I'm free the rest of the... but...

I'm... ing at (exactly) that time. (How about...?/ Could we make it...?/ How about rescheduling?)

Thank you for your invitation, but...

That sounds like just my kind of thing, but...

That's exactly when I have to...

The thing is...

Unfortunately,...

... but you must tell me next time you are going to...

Phrases to use after your invitation is accepted

Great. See you there./ See you then.

I'm so glad you can come.

You won't regret it.

Phrases for accepting a refusal

Never mind. Another time, perhaps.

That's a shame/ pity.

That's okay, I understand.

Phrases for not giving up when your invitation is refused

Could you make it if...?

How about (if we made it)...?

In that case, what about...?

Well, if you change your mind...