

LESSON NOTES

Advanced S1 #20

Receiving an English Invite to an Exclusive Dinner

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ENGLISH

1. CHAIRMAN: Okay so, everyone is agreed that Jeffrey Nye will take Daniel Giesbrect's place as our new keynote speaker?
2. (general confirmation)
3. CHAIRMAN: Excellent. Is there any other business?
4. JENNIFER: Sir, I'd just like to remind everyone of the banquet that we're going to have on Thursday night.
5. CHAIRMAN: Yes that's right. Please, take the floor.
6. JENNIFER: Each year the International Relations Department puts on a banquet in connection with the seminar. The entire committee is invited and you may bring with you one guest. This dinner is closed to the public.
7. CHAIRMAN: That's right. For those of you who have not been with us in past years, I would like to stress that this is a formal banquet for committee members, International relations Department members, and delegates and this year we're expecting around eighty attendees.
8. JENNIFER: We have reserved the Brazilian steakhouse Fogo de Chão starting at 7.
9. CHAIRMAN: Let's bring this meeting to a close for today. Our next meeting will take place in two weeks on February 18.

VOCABULARY

Vocabulary	English	Class
shall we	when used with "let's" a suggestion to do something	phrase

member	an individual, thing or organization belonging to a group	noun
leave	to cause to remain	verb
keynote	introductory speech given at the beginning of a conference	noun
night	period of darkness after sunset	noun
delegate	a person who represents others in a conference	noun
department	a division of a large organization	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Shall we dance, my dear?	Are you a member of this organization?
Leave a message after the beep.	Would you like to leave a message?
I think he'd be great to give the keynote.	The night was calm and peaceful.
There were thirty-two delegates at the symposium.	I work in the clothing department.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

"Let's bring this to a close for today."

This phrase is used to close some kind of event. The prepositional phrase "for today" used at

the end indicated that they are dealing with something that will happen again on some other day. You can use this phrase to either close a particular topic of discussion for the day or to close the entire meeting for today.

This is often used by meeting leaders when the discussion within the meeting has become unproductive or a next step cannot be defined. This is a polite phrase compared to "The meeting is over" or, "Stop talking about that." It's also a phrase using the word, "let's" to show unity among the group.

Sometimes it's used to remind the group that they should be working together and not against each other.

"Is there any other business?"

The chairman asked this to make sure that each relevant topic had been discussed during the meeting. Here the word "business" refers to "topics to be discussed" and not some other company.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Nouns and Prepositions

"Let's bring this meeting to a close for today."

"Between"

Use "between" preceded by the following nouns:

A connection between TWO things:

1. "There is no connection between the two crimes."

A relationship between TWO things:

1. "The relationship between the two friends was very strong."

A contact between TWO things:

1. "There is little contact between the two parents."

A difference between TWO things:

1. "There is no difference between those two colors."

"For"

Use "for" preceded by the following nouns:

A check for (amount of money):

1. "She gave me a check for \$50."

A demand for something:

1. "Unfortunately, there wasn't enough demand for our product."

A need for something:

1. "There is a real need for discipline in this class."

A reason for something:

1. "I have a reason for doing that!"

"In"

Use "in" preceded by the following nouns:

A rise in something:

1. "There has been a rise in prices recently."

An increase in something:

1. "We have seen many increases in production levels."

A fall in something:

1. "There has been a fall in prices recently."

A decrease in something:

1. "We have seen many decreases in production levels."

"Of"

Use "of" preceded by the following nouns:

A cause of something:

1. "She is the cause of all his problems."

A photograph OR a picture of something or someone:

1. "He took a photograph of the mountains."

"To"

Use "to" preceded by the following nouns:

Damage to something:

1. "I did a lot of damage to my car the other day."

An invitation to a celebration of some type:

1. We'll also be sending out official invitations to your homes.

Reaction to something:

1. "Her reaction to his behavior was quite funny."

A solution to a problem:

1. "He provided the solution to our financial situation."

An attitude to something (or TOWARDS something):

1. "Your attitude to your problems doesn't help them get resolved."

"With"

Use "with" preceded by the following nouns:

A relationship with someone or something:

1. "My relationship with Mary is wonderful."

A connection with someone or something:

1. "His connections with the CIA are very limited."

A contact with someone or something:

1. "Have you had any contact with Sarah?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Formal Dinners

Formal dinners or formal banquets are very common in academic settings. Seminars, conventions, galas, and symposiums frequently have some kind of closed session, formal banquet for the experts or delegates invited. The dress code for these formal dinners can vary dramatically.

For the most part, however, a "black tie" dress code is the most common. "Black-tie" events mean that the males wear black tuxedos with black bow ties. This is the standard dress for weddings in the United States.

There also exists an "white tie" dress code. In the United States, the white tie dress code has been largely replaced by black tie dress. The only time I have ever seen a man in white tie dress was the conductor of a large metropolitan symphony playing classical music. The musicians wore black-tie attire.