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## *Party Like a Pro*

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Welcome to **the 55<sup>th</sup> episode** of Golden Talk, brought to you by the **Iran-Australia Language Institute**. I'm Dr. Alikhani, the creator and organizer of the Golden Talk series. In Golden Talk, we aim to provide our audience with opportunities to notice English in the context of real-life situations and topics, offering them authentic language exposure. We also focus on helping our audience learn to develop their thoughts, take turns in conversations, and enhance their communication skills. Meanwhile, we also feel responsible for raising awareness about topics that impact our lives, encouraging our audience to practice arguing for or against ideas and to develop their critical thinking skills. Today, we have a fascinating episode prepared for you, titled "**Party like a Pro**". We're giving you some tips and tricks for hosting and attending parties with confidence and flair. Whether you're throwing a bash or just attending one, knowing how to handle social gatherings can make the experience more enjoyable and memorable. So, join us as we share practical advice to help you become the life of the party!

## Ideas in Conversation

Read this conversation between a radio show host and three guests, discussing different aspects of partying.

**Jeremy (host):** Welcome, everyone, to another episode of Golden Talk. I'm your host, Jeremy, and today we have a fascinating episode for you titled "Party like a Pro." We're joined by three guests: Alex Morgan, a party planner; Dr. Emily Chen, an anthropologist; and Dr. Jordan Lee, a psychologist. Welcome to all of you.

**Alex (party planner):** Thanks for having us, Jeremy. Excited to be here.

**Jeremy (host):** Let's start with the basics. Alex, from your perspective as a party planner, what's the key to **throwing a killer party**?

**Alex (party planner):** Great question. To me, the key is creating an unforgettable experience for your guests.

**Jeremy (host):** Uh-oh, I'm thinking high expenses? The budget getting out of hand? Trying hard to **please everyone** by **throwing** the perfect **party!**

**Alex (party planner):** There *is* no perfect party! What's perfect in your eyes may not be an enjoyable experience for others. When I say unforgettable, I don't mean **going out of your way** trying to **throw** the perfect **bash** of all time. You don't need to **splurge out** (*=spend a lot of money*) on elaborate details to impress people. Instead, try to learn more about your guests' tastes and understand their likes and dislikes. Then, choose the right theme, music, food, and activities that **resonate with** your guests. Now, that's the **ultimate experience!**

**Jeremy (host):** So, it's not only about the scale of the party, but the quality of the experience?

**Alex (party planner):** Exactly. Whether it's a small gathering or a large event, the key is to make it memorable.

**Jeremy (host):** Speaking of themes, how important is it for a party to have a theme?

**Alex (party planner):** A party theme is like the glue that holds all the fun bits together. It's not just about picking a color or a decade for costumes; it's the **vibe** that makes your party unforgettable. Whether it's a **cruise party** or a Hollywood **glamour night**, choosing the right theme can turn a **basic get-together** into **the talk of the town**. A party theme **sparks excitement** and **gets everyone in the mood for** a good time.

**Jeremy (host):** Speaking of sparking excitement and having a good time, Dr. Lee, can you shed some light on the psychological aspect of partying? How



significant are parties when it comes to social bonding or an overall sense of happiness?

**Dr. Lee (psychologist):** Parties are more than just a **blast**; they're like a cocktail of everything you need to **recharge your batteries** and **unwind**. Doesn't matter if you're dancing, drinking, **vibing with the music**, or simply **socializing with** others; when you have fun at a party, your body releases **feel-good hormones** like dopamine and serotonin, giving you a **natural high**. There is actually evidence suggesting that social connections and engaging in social activities can be associated with reduced feelings of isolation, depression, social anxiety, and even suicidal thoughts by **knitting us closer** and making us feel supported.

**Jeremy (host):** Knitting us closer! But that should depend on the type of the party, right? Dr. Chen, I'm curious: Are there any specific classifications or types of parties recognized in anthropology?

**Dr. Chen (anthropologist):** Yes, there are! We can classify parties into several categories based on their purpose, scale, and the nature of social interactions. This includes **casual gatherings** or **family get-togethers**, like house parties and BBQs; formal events, such as **galas** and **balls**; and **themed parties**, like costume or holiday celebrations. Each type offers a unique atmosphere and set of activities **tailored to** its specific audience and occasion.

**Jeremy (host):** Thank you, Dr. Chen. So far, we've **touched on** the atmosphere, themes, and social dynamics. Let's get more specific and discuss the varieties of drinks often served at parties. Alex, could you share your thoughts on **crafting a drink menu**?

**Alex (party planner):** Sure! So, a **nicely put-together** drink menu can **take** any party **to the next level**. We often include a range of **craft cocktails** that **cater to** diverse tastes, using high-quality ingredients. For those who

prefer non-alcoholic options, we offer **mocktails** that are crafted with fresh ingredients and unique flavors.

**Jeremy (host):** Right! As a host, you always need to make sure your menu **caters to** everyone's tastes and preferences.

**Alex (party planner):** Exactly! That's why we always serve drinks "**neat**," "**on the rocks**," or "**with a twist**" to make sure **we've got all bases covered**, drink-wise. It's all about the details and making sure everyone finds something they enjoy. Like I said earlier, all these little details help make your party more memorable.

**Jeremy (host):** Thank you, Alex. Alright, everyone, that's our time. As Maya Angelou once said, '*People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.*' Make every party memorable. See you next episode!

## Useful Language

- **recharge your batteries:** Rest to regain energy.
- *Example: Weekends help me recharge my batteries.*
- **unwind:** Relax and reduce stress.
- *Example: I unwind by reading a book.*
- **vibing with the music:** Enjoying and feeling the music deeply.

- *Example: We were vibing with the music all night.*
- **natural high:** Joy without substances.
- *Example: Running gives me a natural high.*
- **social anxiety:** Fear of social situations.
- *Example: Social anxiety makes parties challenging for me.*
- **casual gatherings:** Informal social meetings.
- *Example: Our casual gatherings always cheer me up.*
- **gala:** A gala is formal, festive celebration.
- *Example: The charity gala raised a lot of money.*
- **ball:** a formal dance event
- *Example: She wore a gown to the ball.*
- **themed parties:** Celebrations with a specific theme.
- *Example: The superhero themed party was fun.*
- **craft cocktails:** Craft cocktails are special handmade drinks made with great care using high-quality ingredients. They focus on unique flavors and creative mixing.
- *Example: He loves making craft cocktails.*
- **mocktails:** Non-alcoholic mixed drinks.
- *Example: She ordered a mocktail at the bar.*
- **neat (drinks):** Without ice or mixers.
- *Example: He drinks his whiskey neat.*

- **on the rocks (drinks):** Served over ice.
- *Example: She prefers her vodka on the rocks.*
- **with a twist (drinks):** With a citrus peel.
- *Example: His martini came with a twist.*
- **I've got all bases covered [informal]:** Prepared for any situation.
- *Example: With snacks and games, I've got all bases covered.*
- **tailored to:** Customized or adapted for.
- *Example: The music was tailored to everyone's taste.*
- **Hollywood glamour night:** Party with Hollywood style elegance.
- *Example: The Hollywood glamour night was dazzling.*
- **bash [informal]** A big, exciting party that's usually loud, too.
- *Example: What a bash we had last night!*
- **throw a party:** Host a celebration.
- *Example: Let's throw a party this weekend.*
- **splurge out on [informal]:** Spend a lot on.
- *Example: They splurged \$2000 on fancy decorations.*
- **potluck:** A party where each guest brings a meal/food/dish to share.
- *Example: The potluck had a variety of foods.*
- **family get-together:** Informal family meeting.
- *Example: Our family get-together is next Sunday.*

- **family reunion:** Large gathering of extended family.
  - *Example: The family reunion is held every five years.*
- **immediate family:** Closest family members.
  - *Example: Only immediate family was invited.*
- **show up to meetings/party:** Attend meetings or parties.
  - *Example: He always shows up to parties on time.*
- **dinner party:** Evening meal with guests.
  - *Example: They're hosting a dinner party on Friday.*
- **Soirée** /swɑ:'reɪ/ **[formal]** Evening party or gathering.
  - *Example: The soiree will be elegant and fun.*



# Discussion Questions

Read the following discussion questions and think about them.

1. What makes a party unforgettable in your eyes? Share an experience where a party left a lasting impression on you.
2. How important do you think having a theme is for a party? Can you give examples of the best-themed parties you've attended or heard of?
3. Discuss the role of music in setting the mood at a party. How does the choice of music influence the overall atmosphere?
4. Reflect on the social dynamics at parties. How do gatherings help in forming new relationships or strengthening existing ones?
5. In your opinion, what are the key elements to consider when planning a party to ensure it caters to all guests' tastes and preferences?
6. Talk about the evolution of partying through the ages. How have modern parties changed compared to those in the past?
7. Analyze the impact of social media on partying culture. Do you think it has changed the way we perceive and attend parties?
8. Explore the psychological effects of partying. How do parties contribute to our mental health and well-being?