

★ The Prom ★

In the United States and Canada, a **prom**, short for **promenade**, is a formal (black tie) dance, or gathering of high school students. It is typically held near the end of junior and/or senior year. It figures greatly in popular culture and is a major event among high school students. High school juniors attending the prom may call it **Junior Prom** while high school seniors may call it **Senior Prom**. In practice this may be a combined junior/senior dance.



At prom, a Prom Queen and Prom King may be revealed. Other students may be honored with inclusion in a "Prom Court". Prom Queen and Prom King are honorary titles awarded to students chosen in a school-wide vote prior to the prom. Inclusion in a Prom Court is a reflection of popularity of those chosen and their level of participation in school activities including sports. The selection method for Prom Court is similar to that of Homecoming Queen, King, and Court. Prom Queen and King is an honor usually given to seniors. In addition to Prom Queen and Prom King, juniors may also be honored, but would be called "Prom Prince" or "Prom Princess".

The British synonym for the North American event would be *Leavers' Ball*, *Leavers' Dinner*, *Formal* or, informally, *Leavers' Do*. This is closer to the Australian description, although in the UK, some schools have called the above events *proms*. In Canada, Ireland, and Australia the terms *Grad* or *Formal* are most commonly used and the event is usually held for those graduating high school or middle school. In Ireland, the event is also known as the *Debs*, which is derived from *Debutante*.



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prom>



★ Mark true (T) or false (F) according to the text (you'll explain orally when it's false):

- A gathering or dance of high school students is called promenade. ()
- The prom is not important for high school students. ()
- A Junior Prom is attended by high school juniors. ()
- The Prom Queen is revealed at the prom. ()
- Inclusion in a Prom Court is a reflection of the student's grades. ()
- The level of a student's participation in school activities may help him / her to take part in the Prom Court. ()
- Prom Queen and King is an honor usually given to juniors. ()
- Leaver's Ball is the Canadian synonym for the North American Prom. ()
- Some schools in the UK have called this event proms, like in the US. ()
- In Australia the event is held for those graduating elementary school. ()

Answer the questions:

1. Have you ever seen movies about a Prom? Tell what happened.

2. Do you have such event in your country? How is it like?

3. Would you like to be the Prom King / Queen? Why (not)?

4. Why do you think being the Prom King / Queen is so important for American high students?

5. What does being the Prom King / Queen represents in the US?

6. Do you think popularity is important?

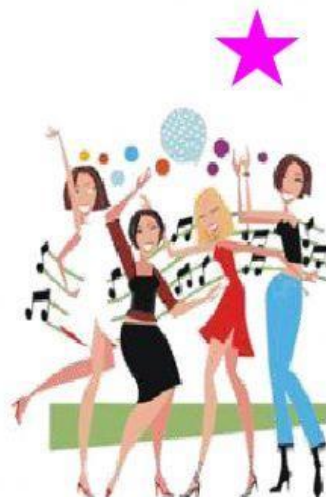
7. What sort of things do you imagine people would do in order to increase their popularity?

8. Which is more important in your opinion: your self-image or the image people have from you?

9. How do you think an American high school feels when s/he's the Prom King / Queen?

10. And how would s/he feel if s/he couldn't take part in the Prom?

11. What are some things the students consider as **very important** in your country?



Complete with the past simple or the present perfect (in some sentences, both are possible):

- A. Jamie _____ at the Prom. Do you know why? [to be / not]
B. Patricia _____ the finals yet. Will she do it until the Prom? [to attend / not]
C. Mark and Jean _____ beautifully at the Prom. I didn't know they were such great dancers. [to dance]
D. Ellen isn't going to the Prom because her parents _____ her for a week. [to ground]
E. I _____ a stunning dress for the Prom. Do you think I may be the Prom Queen? [to buy]
F. Lucy and Jill _____ a lot at the Prom. In fact, Bill had to take them home. [to drink]
G. I don't remember if Ann _____ at the Prom. _____ you _____ her? [to be / to see]