

How to survive at a party...

(when you don't know anybody!)

Has this ever happened to you? You arrive at a party or wedding reception where you don't know anybody. Everybody there seems to know each other. What can you do? Here are five simple tips.

- Don't stand in the corner. You need ¹ to be positive. Find somebody you think you would like ² and go and introduce yourself.
- Try ³ impersonal questions like 'I love your bag. Where did you get it?' That will help ⁴ a conversation.
- Try ⁵ the conversation. When you are nervous, it's very easy ⁶ about yourself all the time. Nobody wants ⁷ to your life story when they've only just met you.
- Smile, smile, smile. Use your body-language ⁸ a positive, friendly impression. That way people will want ⁹ to you.
- If you want ¹⁰ from a really boring person, say that you are going to the bar ¹¹ another drink or that you need ¹² to the bathroom. Don't come back!

2 GRAMMAR uses of the infinitive (with *to*)

a Read the article about parties. Complete the five rules with an infinitive

to ask to be not to dominate to escape to get to talk
to give to go to listen to meet to start to talk

b Read the article again and then cover it. Can you remember the tips?

c Match the examples A–C from the text with rules 1–3.

A It's very easy **to talk** about yourself all the time.
B Say that you're going to the bar **to get** another drink.
C Try **to ask** impersonal questions.

Use the infinitive (with *to*)...

1 after some verbs (e.g. *want*, *try*, etc.)
2 after adjectives
3 to say why you do something.

5A

a Complete with *to* + a verb.

I'm planning to have a holiday next month.

do not drive go learn leave not make meet

1 A Hi, I'm Dagmara.

B I'm Renata. Nice you.

2 What do you want this evening?

3 I need to the bank. I don't have any money.

4 Try a noise. Your father's asleep.

5 I'd really like a new language.

6 Be careful too fast on the way home.

7 She's decided her husband.

b Match the sentence halves.

They want to go to Australia

1 He's going to have a party

2 You'll need a visa

3 Don't forget to phone the restaurant

4 I stopped at the garage

5 She's gone to the supermarket

6 I went to the travel agent's

7 I'll send them a text message

D A to celebrate getting the job.

E B to get some petrol.

F C to book our tickets.

G D to visit their family there.

H E to tell them where we are.

I F to go to China.

J G to book a table.

K H to get some food for tonight.