Dinner's on me: entertaining and eating out

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Tick the correct category for each dining word.

Word | Payment | Event | Person | Quality

1 pick up the tab [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
2 potluck [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
3 guest of honour [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
4 generous [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
5 RSVP [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
6 cater [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
7 stingy [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
8 gathering [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

2 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 He picked up on the tab for everyone. _____
2 We brought a dish to the potluck party. _____
3 She is guest of the honour tonight. _____
4 He is very generous with money. _____
5 Please RSVP until Friday. _____
6 They catered for the wedding of food. _____
7 He is quite stingy about money. _____
8 We had a small gathering at of our house. _____

3 Choose the more suitable description.

1 For someone who pays for everyone's meal: pick up the tab / split evenly.
2 For a meal where each guest brings a dish: potluck / catered.
3 For the special guest an event is held for: guest of honour / uninvited guest.
4 For someone reluctant to spend money: stingy / generous.
5 For confirming attendance at an event: RSVP / ignore.
6 For providing food and drink for an event: cater / decorate.

Dinner's on me: entertaining and eating out

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

4 Complete the profiles with words from the box.

cater | gathering | generous | guest of honour | pick up the tab | potluck | RSVP | stingy

Profile A: At his retirement party, Marko was the 1 _____, and his colleagues organised the whole 2 _____ as a surprise.
Profile B: Rather than hiring someone to 3 _____, they decided to make it a 4 _____, with everyone bringing a dish.
Profile C: Leo is famously 5 _____, always insisting on paying and never letting anyone else 6 _____ .
Profile D: Guests were asked to 7 _____ by Friday, though a few forgot and showed up unannounced.
Profile E: Some guests thought Sara was being 8 _____ when she asked everyone to bring their own drinks.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

The etiquette of splitting the bill

Deciding how to pay after a group meal can be surprisingly awkward, and social norms vary widely between cultures. In some contexts, splitting the bill evenly is expected regardless of what each person ordered, while in others, itemised payment, with everyone paying for exactly what they had, is considered fairer. Hosting also carries its own etiquette: in many cultures, whoever extends the invitation is expected to pick up the tab, and offering to pay can even be seen as an insult to a generous host. Understanding these unwritten rules, etiquette experts suggest, can prevent unnecessary tension at what should be an enjoyable social occasion.

1 What can be surprisingly awkward, according to the text? _____

2 What is expected in some contexts regarding the bill? _____

3 What is considered fairer in other contexts? _____

4 Who is expected to pick up the tab in many cultures? _____

5 What can offering to pay sometimes be seen as? _____

6 What can understanding these unwritten rules prevent? _____

6 Rewrite each phrase using the word in capitals.

1 He paid for everyone's meal. TAB _____

2 Everyone brought a dish to share. POTLUCK _____

3 She was the special guest at the event. HONOUR _____

Dinner's on me: entertaining and eating out

4 He is reluctant to spend money. STINGY _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a 100-120 word account of the etiquette around paying for a meal in your culture or one you know well. Include specific examples.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Include polite, precise wording. [ ] Organise the account clearly.

Dinner's on me: entertaining and eating out

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

ANSWER KEY

1 Categories

1 Payment 2 Event 3 Person 4 Quality 5 Payment 6 Payment 7 Quality 8 Event

2 Corrections

1 picked up the tab for everyone 2 brought a dish to the potluck 3 the guest of honour
4 very generous with money 5 RSVP by Friday 6 catered the wedding with food
7 quite stingy with money 8 a small gathering at our house

3 Suitable descriptions

1 pick up the tab 2 potluck 3 guest of honour 4 stingy 5 RSVP 6 cater

4 Profiles

1 guest of honour 2 gathering 3 cater 4 potluck 5 generous 6 pick up the tab 7 RSVP 8 stingy

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Deciding how to pay after a group meal.
2 Splitting the bill evenly regardless of what each person ordered.
3 Itemised payment, with everyone paying for exactly what they had.
4 Whoever extends the invitation.
5 An insult to a generous host.
6 Unnecessary tension at what should be an enjoyable social occasion.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 He picked up the tab. 2 It was a potluck. 3 She was the guest of honour. 4 He is stingy.

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check range, respectful register and clear organisation.