

Socializing 09: Having an Office Holiday Party

Practice 1 | Useful Expressions

Directions: Listen and repeat.

- **punch** - alcoholic and non-alcoholic drink, generally containing fruit or fruit juice.
- **unwind** - to relax
- **fiasco** - a complete failure
- **bust** - failure
- **die for** - important or desirable enough to die for, worth dying for; extremely good
- **have a blast** - to have a great time, to have a lot of fun
- **mingle** - to mix, join or take part with others, to socialize
- **cute as a button** - very attractive
- **kudos** - applause or praise for exceptional achievement
- **eggnog** - alcoholic beverage made from dairy products (milk and/or cream, sugar and whipped eggs and whatever liquor you wish) usually served around Christmas
- **refreshment** - a light snack or drink provided in a public place or at a public event

Practice 2 | Dialogue

Directions: Read the dialogue aloud with your teacher.

*It's the Friday before Christmas and the people at the office decided to hold an Office Christmas party to **unwind** a bit and enjoy themselves. Linda and Carly are talking by the **punch** bowl.*

Linda : This is actually not a bad party. Wouldn't you say so Carly?

Carly : Yes. It's much better than last year's **fiasco**.

Linda : Well it wasn't a **bust** until Gary got drunk and started shouting and ruining everybody's mood.

Carly : Let's hope he doesn't do the same this year, Linda. Have you tasted the **punch**? It's quite good.

Linda : No, I haven't. I just fell in love with this **eggnog**. It is to **die for**. It's the best thing in the entire party. **Kudos** to whoever brought it!

Carly : Pour me a cup. Mmmh, it is very good. I claim the eggnog in our name.

Linda : Look at Jeff over there. He's **having a blast** dancing with the new secretary.

Carly : Oh, that poor, poor girl. She does not know what she's getting into.

Linda : Don't you feel that we're not enjoying this party as we should? We should **minge** a bit.

Carly : I'm always enjoying a party when I'm with you. But you're right. I've been meaning to talk to Jason from accounting for quite a while. He's **cute as a button**.

Linda : Let's be our own Santas and get our own presents. Talk to you later, Carly.

Carly : See you, Linda.

Check your understanding: Answer the following questions.

1. Where is the party taking place and for what occasion?
2. What does Linda think is the best part of the party?
3. How is this party in relation to last year's Christmas party?
4. Why was the previous party a fiasco?

Practice 3 | Role-Play

Directions: Have a role-play with your teacher in the following situation.

Situation

Imagine you are having a Christmas Party at the office and you want to talk to one of your new co-workers.

Expressions:

- Are you enjoying the party?
- Would you like to have some refreshment?
- How do you feel working in this company?
- Have a blast
- Kudos
- Fiasco
- To die for
- unwind

Practice 4 | Discussion

Directions: Discuss these topics and exchange thoughts with your teacher.

1. Have you ever organized an office party?
2. Have you ever participated in an office party?
3. Do you like office parties? Do you think they are a good idea?
4. If you were to participate in an office party, what would you like to have there in order for you to consider a successful party?
5. Does your company organize office parties?