

# The Birthday Banquet Planner

Organizing and Enjoying a Group Dinner

## PART 01 Warm-Up Activity

- What is the most important thing for a good dinner: the food, the price, or the atmosphere?
- Have you ever had to complain about food in a restaurant? What happened?

## PART 02 The Scenario

You are planning a birthday dinner for a friend. You need to choose a restaurant and then simulate the dining experience. However, your group has specific needs:

1. One person is allergic to nuts.
2. The birthday guest wants to sit on the terrace.
3. The group wants to split the bill at the end.

### The Menu & Info:

- **Main Courses:** Grilled Salmon with Lemon; Ribeye Steak with Fries; Pesto Pasta (contains pine nuts); Garden Salad.
- **Drinks:** Red/White Wine; Sparkling Water; Fresh Juice.
- **Policies:** No parking nearby; 10% service charge added to groups; Terrace is weather-dependent.

### THE TASK & GOAL

Plan the dinner, order the meal, and handle a small problem during the service.

1. Discuss which dishes to order based on the group's needs.
2. Roleplay the phone call to book the table.
3. Roleplay the dinner, including ordering and paying.

### ROLES & PERSPECTIVES

#### A: THE CUSTOMER/ORGANIZER

You are in charge of the booking. You must mention the nut allergy and ask about the terrace. During the meal, you notice your steak is "a bit cold" and you must complain politely.

#### B: THE WAITER/RESTAURANT MANAGER

You take the booking. During the meal, you must explain that the terrace is closed because of rain. You must handle the complaint about the cold food and then help the guests split the bill.

**REFERENCE** Useful Language

BOOKING & ORDERING	MAKING COMPLAINTS	PAYING THE BILL
I'd like to book a table for...	Sorry, but this [dish] is a bit...	Shall we split the bill?
Does anyone have any allergies?	To be honest, it's not very...	Can we pay by cash/card?
I think I'll go for the...	I didn't order the...	It's on me! (I will pay)

**PLANNING & NOTES**

*Plan your dialogue here*

Blank area for planning and notes, containing several horizontal lines for writing.

**PART 03** Reflection

1. Was the waiter able to solve the problem with the cold food?
2. What was the most difficult phrase to use during the roleplay?

Blank lines for reflection answers.

# The Birthday Banquet Planner

Target language practice.



TIME

**30-40** MINS

OBJECTIVE

To enable students to manage a complete restaurant transaction from booking to paying, including handling unexpected problems.

## GRAMMAR FOCUS

### POLITE REQUESTS AND DECISIONS

- I'd like to book a table for four
- I think I'll go for the steak
- Could you bring us a jug of water?

## KEY VOCABULARY

RESERVATION

ALLERGY

TERRACE

SPLIT THE BILL

TO BE HONEST

## Procedure

1. **Warmer (5 mins):** Ask the warm-up questions to the whole class. Elicit words for cutlery (fork, knife, spoon) using the source image if necessary.
2. **The Task (20 mins):**
  - Pair students. Give them 5 minutes to prepare their "strategy" (which dishes to avoid for the allergy, etc.).
  - Monitor the roleplay. Ensure Student A actually makes the complaint about the cold steak.
  - Encourage the use of "actually" and "to be honest" when discussing the food.
3. **Feedback (10 mins):** Ask a few pairs to perform their "complaint" scene. Correct errors related to "I'll have..." vs. "I want..."