

The Surprise Reunion Mixer

Socializing and Making Connections

PART 01 Warm-Up Activity

- Do you enjoy going to parties where you don't know many people? Why or why not?
- What are three "safe" topics you can talk about with a stranger? (e.g., jobs, the weather).
- How do you react when you see someone you haven't spoken to in years?

PART 02 The Scenario

You are attending a housewarming party for a mutual friend named Gemma. Some people here are old friends, some are colleagues, and some are total strangers. You need to mingle, introduce yourself, and find out how everyone is connected to Gemma.

The Guest List (Reference Material):

- **Gemma:** The host (not currently in the room).
- **Rick:** Went to college with Gemma 5 years ago. Now works as an architect.
- **Sarah:** Gemma's current colleague. Works at a local primary school.
- **Tom:** Gemma's neighbor. Just moved in last month.
- **Elena:** Gemma's cousin from out of town.

Roles:

THE TASK & GOAL

Mingle with other guests to establish your identity and discover the hidden connections between the people in the room.

1. Move around the room and greet at least three different people.
2. Use appropriate "icebreakers" to start the conversation.
3. Find out two pieces of information about each person: their job and how they know the host.
4. Introduce two people you have met to each other.

IMPORTANT: The section must end with `

ROLES & PERSPECTIVES

A: THE OLD FRIEND

You went to school with Gemma. You haven't seen her in three years. You are currently unemployed but looking for work in marketing. You are wearing a very expensive-looking jacket you bought for 10 quid at a charity shop.

B: THE COLLEAGUE

You work with Gemma at the office. You think you recognize Student A from a photo on Gemma's desk. You are a bit shy but very polite. You want to know if anyone knows when the food will be served.

REFERENCE Useful Language

GREETINGS & SURPRISES	ASKING ABOUT CONNECTIONS	TALKING ABOUT WORK/LIFE
Fancy seeing you here!	So, how do you know Gemma?	So, what do you do?
Long time, no see!	We used to work together.	I've been really busy lately.
I didn't know you were coming!	We're old school friends.	I work in [industry/field].

PLANNING & NOTES

Plan your dialogue here

PART 03 Reflection

1. Which phrases felt the most natural when starting a conversation?
2. Was it difficult to introduce two people to each other? What language did you use?

The Surprise Reunion Mixer

Target language practice.



TIME

30-40 MINS

OBJECTIVE

To enable students to initiate, maintain, and close conversations in a social setting using informal English.

GRAMMAR FOCUS

PAST SIMPLE VS. PRESENT PERFECT FOR CATCHING UP

- How have you been?
- I haven't seen you in ages!
- We went to the same college.

KEY VOCABULARY

FANCY SEEING YOU

SMALL TALK

CHARITY SHOP

QUID

OLD SCHOOL FRIENDS

Procedure

1. **Warmer (5 mins):** Ask the warm-up questions. Elicit the term "small talk" and discuss its importance in English-speaking cultures.
2. **The Task (20 mins):**
 - Set the scene: The Housewarming Party.
 - Distribute roles. If you have a large class, repeat the roles or create slight variations.
 - Monitor the "mingling." Ensure students are using the "Useful Language" phrases.
 - Encourage students to "introduce" a third party to practice the "This is [Name], they [Connection]" structure.
3. **Feedback (10 mins):** Ask students who they met and what they learned. Correct any common errors noticed during the task, specifically focusing on the difference between "What do you do?" (job) and "What are you doing?" (current action).