

“Set The Table For Dinner”

Step 1: Rephrase the problem

The task “Set the table for dinner” could be rephrased as “Set the table for dinner because people are coming over to eat” or “Set the table for dinner to ensure everyone has what they need for the meal.” This rephrasing gives context and highlights the purpose and urgency of the task.

Step 2: What do I need to know to solve the problem?

Once the task has been rephrased, identify the specific details (level of transaction) and the information we need to collect:

- 1. How many people are coming to dinner?**
- 2. What is being served for dinner?**
 - Is it a formal meal or casual?
 - Are there multiple courses?
- 3. What kind of tableware is needed?**
 - Plates, bowls, cutlery (fork, knife, spoon)?
- 4. What kind of glasses are required?**
 - Water glasses, wine glasses?
- 5. What type of napkins will be used?**
 - Cloth or paper?
- 6. Are any condiments needed on the table?**
- 7. What size table or dining space are we working with?**
- 8. Does the table need any decorations (e.g., centerpiece, candles)?**
- 9. What kind of seating arrangements should be made?**
 - Special seating preferences?

10. Any special dietary accommodations requiring different settings?

Step 3: Look for the data

You can start gathering the necessary data for the task:

1. **Number of Guests:** 4
2. **Meal Type:** Casual dinner with two courses (main and dessert)
3. **Tableware:** Plates, cutlery (fork, knife), and soup spoons
4. **Glassware:** Water glasses only
5. **Napkins:** Cloth napkins
6. **Condiments:** Salt and pepper shakers
7. **Table Size:** 4-seater round table
8. **Decorations:** Minimal (centerpiece with a small candle)
9. **Seating Arrangements:** No special requests
10. **Dietary Accommodations:** One guest is vegetarian

Step 4: Organize the data

Item	Quantity/Details
Number of Guests	4
Meal Type	Casual, 2 courses
Tableware	Plates, forks, knives, spoons
Glassware	Water glasses only
Napkins	Cloth napkins
Condiments	Salt, pepper shakers
Table Size	4-seater round table
Decorations	Small centerpiece candle
Seating Arrangements	No special requests
Dietary Accommodations	One vegetarian guest

Step 5: Identify the relationships

1. **Number of settings:** Since there are 4 guests, 4 place settings need to be prepared.
2. **Tableware:** Each setting requires a plate, fork, knife, and a soup spoon since it's a casual two-course meal.
3. **Glassware:** One water glass per person.
4. **Napkins:** Place one cloth napkin at each setting.
5. **Condiments:** Salt and pepper shakers can be placed at the center of the table, accessible to all.
6. **Decorations:** A small centerpiece candle can add a decorative touch without crowding the table.
7. **Seating:** One guest is vegetarian, so their place should be noted with a special dish if necessary.

Step 6: Find a solution

To set the table for dinner:

1. Start by placing a plate at each of the 4 seats.

2. Set out a fork and knife at each place (fork on the left, knife on the right).
3. Place a soup spoon to the right of the knife.
4. Position a water glass above the knife.
5. Fold the cloth napkin neatly and place it on each plate or to the left of the fork.
6. Place the salt and pepper shakers in the center of the table.
7. Add the small centerpiece candle.
8. Check the seating arrangement and make sure the vegetarian guest's seat is noted.