

Lesson 24: Invitations & Offers

Conversation #1 – Informal Invitations

Anna wants to hang out with her friends this weekend. Listen to her phone calls:

Anna: Hi Betty. Are you doing anything tomorrow afternoon?

Betty: No, I don't have any plans.

Anna: Do you wanna see a movie? There's a matinee of the new James Bond film at 2:45.

Betty: Sure! Why don't you give Nate a call and ask him if he wants to go, too?

Anna: Hey Nate. What are you up to tomorrow?

Nate: Not much. Why?

Anna: How about seeing a movie with me and Betty?

Nate: Yeah, all right. What time?

Anna: We're gonna meet up at the theater at 2:30.

Nate: Oh wait – ah, actually, I don't think I can go. I have to pick up my brother from soccer practice – it ends at 3:30. I'll have to take a raincheck.

Conversation Vocabulary & Phrases

Anna uses two phrases to ask about Betty's and Nate's availability. Here are some additional options:

- **"Are you doing anything... (tomorrow afternoon)?"**
- **"What are you up to... (tomorrow)?"**
- **"Do you have any plans for... (this weekend)?"**
- **"Whatcha doin'... (on Friday)?"**

Then she uses some of these phrases to invite Betty and Nate:

- **"Do you wanna... (see a movie)?"**
- **"How about... (seeing a movie)?"**

- “**Care to...** (see a movie)?”
- “**How’d you like to...** (see a movie)?”
- “**Why don’t we...** (see a movie)?”
- “**Let’s...** (see a movie).”

If you also want to offer to pay for the other person, you can add one of these phrases:

- “How about having a drink after work? **I’m buying.**”
- “Let’s grab some lunch. **My treat.**”
- “Care to get some ice cream? **It’s on me.**”

To say **YES** to an informal invitation, you can say:

- “**Sure!**”
- “**Sounds good.**”
- “**Yeah, all right.**”
- “**Count me in!**”
(usually if it is a group of people going)

To say **NO** to an informal invitation, you can say:

- “**I don’t think I can.**”
- “**I’d love to, but...**”
- “**I can’t – I gotta / I hafta...** (pick up my brother from school).”
- “**I’ll have to take a raincheck.**”
(this means you can’t go, but you hope the person invites you again in the future)

Conversation #2 – Formal Invitations

Listen to Anna’s conversations as she talks with her co-workers.

Anna: Hi Cindy. Are you free today at lunchtime?

Cindy: Yes, I think so.

Anna: A few of us from the marketing department are going to an Italian restaurant in the neighborhood. Would you like to join us?

Cindy: I'd love to, thanks!

Anna: Hi Paul – I know it's short notice, but my husband and I were wondering if you'd like to go to a baseball game on Saturday. We have an extra ticket.

Paul: I'd love to, but I'm afraid I have another commitment this weekend.

Anna: Oh well. Maybe another time.

Paul: Yeah. Why don't you ask Chris? He's into baseball.

Anna: Chris, my husband and I have an extra ticket for Saturday's baseball game. Would you like to come?

Chris: I wish I could – but I'll actually be away on a business trip.

Anna: Ah, that's too bad. Do you know anyone else who might be interested?

Chris: How about Rachel?

Anna: Rachel, would you like to go to a baseball game on Saturday?

Rachel: That's very kind of you, but I have other plans – sorry!

Conversation Vocabulary & Phrases

From these conversations, we learn more formal phrases for inviting people:

- **"Are you free / available...?"**
- **"I know it's short notice, but..."**
Use this phrase when you are inviting someone to something very soon
- **"Would you like to...?"**
- **"I was wondering if you'd like to..."**

To say YES to a more formal invitation, you can say:

- **"That would be nice."**
- **"I'd love to!"**
- **"I'd be delighted to join you!"**

To say NO to a more formal invitation, you can say:

- **“I'd love to, but I'm afraid I have another commitment.”**
- **“I wish I could - but unfortunately...”**
- **“That's very kind of you, but I have other plans.”**

We also see Anna's reactions to her colleagues' refusals:

- **“Oh well. Maybe another time.”**
- **“That's too bad. / That's a shame.”**

Now – what do you say if someone invites you, but you can't give a yes or no answer immediately? Here are some phrases for that situation:

- **“Let me check my calendar.”**
- **“I'm not sure what my plans are. Could I get back to you tomorrow?”**
- **“I might be able to go, but I'm not sure. Could I let you know a little later?”**

Conversation #3 – Making & Responding to Offers

Erica is a college student, and she has invited her boyfriend's mother to her apartment for lunch. She wants to be a good hostess, so she does everything possible to make polite offers:

Erica: Hi, Mrs. Kennedy! Come on in.

Margaret: Please, call me Margaret.

Erica: All right. Can I take your coat?

Margaret: Thanks.

Erica: Please... make yourself at home. May I offer you something to drink?

Margaret: A cup of tea would be great.

Erica: OK. Would you like milk or sugar?

Margaret: Just some sugar, please.

Erica: How about some cookies, too?

Margaret: Oh, no thank you – I'm on a diet.

Erica: OK. I made a chicken salad for lunch – can I get you some?

Margaret: That's very kind of you, Erica... but I'm actually a vegetarian.

Erica: Ah, I didn't know that! I'll prepare a salad without chicken if you like.

Margaret: That would be great. Would you like some help in the kitchen?

Erica: No, that's all right.

Conversation Vocabulary and Phrases

Here are some phrases for making offers:

- **"May I offer you...?"**
May I offer you some tea?
- **"Can I get you ...?"**
Can I get you something to drink?
- **"Would you like ...?"**
Would you like some mashed potatoes?
Would you like an apple?
- **"Do you want...?"**
Do you want some dessert?
Do you want a ride home?
- **"How about...?"**
How about some chips?
How about a beer?
- **"I'll _____ if you like/want."**
I'll wash the dishes, if you like.
I'll lend you an umbrella, if you want.

In these phrases, "May I offer you..." is the most formal. "Do you want...?" and "How about...?" are informal. The most common phrase, which you can use in both formal and informal situations, is "Would you like...?"

Here are some ways to say YES to an offer:

- “May I offer you some tea?”
“Thank you. I’d love a cup of tea.”
- “Can I get you anything to drink?”
“Some coffee would be great, thanks.”
- “Would you like a piece of cake?”
“Do you want a piece of cake?”
“Yes, please.”
- “I’ll wash the dishes, if you like.”
“Thanks, that’s very kind of you. / Thanks, I appreciate it.”

Here are some ways to say NO to an offer politely:

- “May I offer you a cigar?”
“Thanks, but I don’t smoke.”
- “Can I get you something to eat?”
“That’s very kind of you, but I’ve just had lunch.”
- “Would you like a beer?”
“How about some pizza?”
“No, thank you.” / “No, thanks.”
- “I’ll turn up the air conditioning, if you like.”
“No, that’s OK.”

You’ve finished Lesson 24! Now take the quiz to practice the variations on the invitation and offer phrases.

Quiz – Lesson 24

- 1) What are you _____ to on Sunday?
 - A. around
 - B. down
 - C. up

- 2) _____ to join me for dinner?
 - A. Care
 - B. Desire
 - C. Enjoy

- 3) Why _____ we go to the mall?
 - A. aren't
 - B. don't
 - C. not

- 4) Let's have some coffee. My _____.
 - A. buy
 - B. gift
 - C. treat

- 5) Do you want anything to drink? It's _____.
 - A. by myself
 - B. my call
 - C. on me

- 6) How about going to the park this weekend?
_____ good!
 - A. Feels
 - B. Looks
 - C. Sounds

- 7) How'd you like to come over to my house for lunch?
Sorry - I'll have to take a _____.
 - A. countdown

- B. raincheck
- C. snowfall

8) I know it's short _____, but how'd you like to take a road trip this weekend?

- A. alert
- B. inform
- C. notice

9) I was _____ if you'd like to come to a Christmas party.

- A. imagining
- B. thinking
- C. wondering

10) Would you like to go to a concert?

I'd be _____!

- A. delighted
- B. excited
- C. satisfied

11) Are you free this evening? We're hosting a dinner party.

I _____ I could go, but unfortunately I have other plans.

- A. like
- B. want
- C. wish

12) Are you available next Thursday?

Let me _____ my calendar.

- A. check
- B. confirm
- C. look

13) May I _____ you a glass of wine?

- A. invite
- B. offer
- C. present

14) _____ give you a ride, if you like.

- A. I'd
- B. I'll
- C. I'm

15) Can I get you some coffee?

Yes, _____.

- A. appreciated
- B. great
- C. please

16) _____ you like another piece of chicken?

- A. Could
- B. Should
- C. Would

17) I'll make you a sandwich if you want.

No, _____ OK.

- A. this
- B. that's
- C. there's

Lesson 24 Quiz – Answers

1.C 2.A 3.B 4.C 5.C 6.C 7.B 8.C 9.C 10.A 11.C 12.A 13.B 14.B 15.C 16.C 17.B