

A

Nouns for social events



Hi Rebecca,

How's life? Things have been really hectic on the social front here. It seems to be nothing but parties! Frankie and Joe had their **housewarming**¹ last week, now that they've decorated and got all their furniture in. A lot of our friends seem to be getting married lately: Josh went to his friend Mick's **stag party**² last weekend – they went to Spain for it! And next week, my old schoolmate Angela's having her **hen night**³. It's **fancy dress**⁴ too. I think I'll go as Cleopatra. The wedding's at the end of the month. I think the **wedding party**⁵ will include a lot of our year from school; that'll be nice. They're having the **reception**⁶ at the Royal Hotel, very posh. The following week Josh has got his annual company ball. It's a **black-tie**⁷ affair.

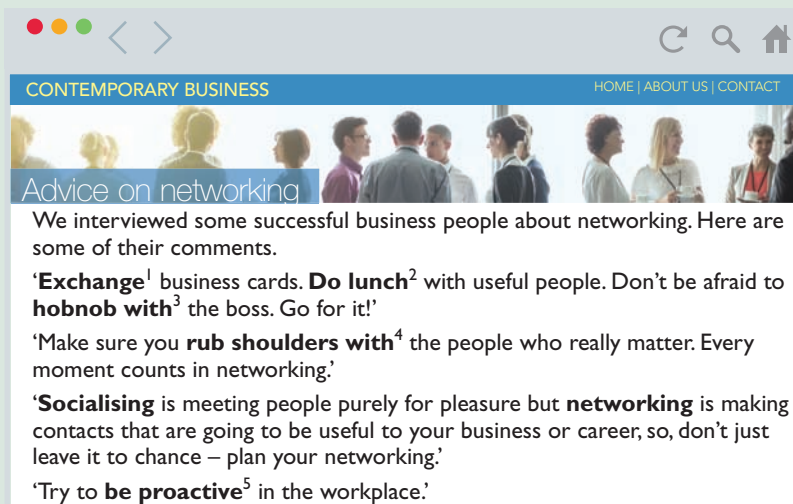
Meanwhile, I've got the **launch party**⁸ for my new book coming up next month and I have the usual **girls' night out**⁹ with Amy and Izzie every few weeks. Oh, and there's a **leaving do**¹⁰ at the office next week. We're going to be exhausted by the end of the year!

Hope to hear from you soon, Jess x

- ¹ a party to celebrate moving to a new house or flat ² a party before a wedding for the future husband and his male friends ³ a party night out before a wedding for the future wife and her female friends
⁴ everyone dresses up in costume ⁵ the main group of close family and friends at a wedding, rather than to the reception after the wedding ⁶ a formal party, e.g. after a wedding or to meet an important visitor
⁷ a formal event at which men have to wear dinner jackets and black bow ties and women wear evening dresses
⁸ a party to celebrate the publication of a new book or product ⁹ an evening out just for female friends
¹⁰ a party to celebrate somebody leaving a job or institution (**do** is an informal noun)

B

Networking



CONTEMPORARY BUSINESS HOME | ABOUT US | CONTACT

Advice on networking

We interviewed some successful business people about networking. Here are some of their comments.

'**Exchange**¹ business cards. **Do lunch**² with useful people. Don't be afraid to **hobnob with**³ the boss. Go for it!'

'Make sure you **rub shoulders with**⁴ the people who really matter. Every moment counts in networking.'

'**Socialising** is meeting people purely for pleasure but **networking** is making contacts that are going to be useful to your business or career, so, don't just leave it to chance – plan your networking.'

'Try to **be proactive**⁵ in the workplace.'

- ¹ give each other
² have lunch; *informal*
³ be friendly with someone who is important or famous, sometimes with negative associations
⁴ mix socially with people; *informal*
⁵ taking action yourself rather than waiting for something to happen

C

Expressions for social activity

I don't like the people Chris **hangs out with** / **knocks around with**. [spends social time with; *informal*] (*Said to your host*) I hope I'm not **outstaying my welcome**. [staying too long]
 Jamie's a real **party animal**. [someone who loves going to parties]
 I hate it at my new job – everyone's so **clikey**. [a **clique** is a disapproving word for a small group of people who spend time together and do not allow others to join them]
 It was good at the club last night. Pete Esterhaus was there with his **crowd**. [his group of friends / the people he socialises with; *informal*]
 Lizzy and Rob are always together. Are they **an item**? [having a romantic relationship; *informal*]
 Joel isn't very happy because Molly **stood him up** last night. [didn't arrive for a date they had made]

Exercises

19.1 Look at A opposite and decide what kind of party you might be invited to if:

- 1 a friend of yours is about to get married and is having a party before the wedding (depending on whether you are male or female).
- 2 you are going to help a friend celebrate on the day of their wedding.
- 3 some friends have just moved into a new flat.
- 4 a friend has just had a book published.
- 5 your local council is arranging for important people in the area to meet a visiting dignitary.
- 6 you have friends who love dressing up as characters from famous films.

19.2 Rewrite these sentences by replacing the underlined words with an expression from the opposite page that means the same thing. There may be more than one possible answer.

- 1 It's always good to see Theo, but somehow he always manages to stay too long.
- 2 I'm going to a dinner at the Royal Plaza Hotel tonight. It's an event where you have to wear a dinner jacket and bow tie.
- 3 Don't forget your old friends when your film becomes a hit and you're socialising with the rich and famous.
- 4 We're going to have a night out just for us girls on Friday.
- 5 We must invite Jasmine to our do. She's a real lover of parties!
- 6 Don't always wait for people to do things for you. You should be more prepared to take action yourself.
- 7 It's good to see you! We must have lunch together sometime and discuss business.
- 8 It irritates me the way he's always being so friendly with the managers.



19.3 There is one mistake in each of these sentences. Correct the mistakes.

- 1 He usually hangs over with his college friends at the weekend and they go to football matches and things.
- 2 Nella and her friends are very clique. They don't mix with anyone else.
- 3 I'd better go home now. You've been very kind, but I don't want to stay out my welcome.
- 4 She said she wanted to go out with me, then she stood me down!
- 5 Rita and Nick are an article. They've been together for months. Didn't you know?
- 6 Laurie's crowds are really fun people. I often meet up with them in town.

19.4 Over to you

- Which of the types of party listed in A have you had personal experience of? How did you enjoy them?
- Who do you mostly knock around with? Are any of your friends party animals?
- Have you ever rubbed shoulders with anyone famous? If not, who would you most like to rub shoulders with?