

Let's get started...

Before you begin discussing today's topic, take a few moments to describe the last social event that you attended. These questions will help you get started.

- Was it a social or business occasion?
- What did people wear?
- How long was the event?
- What kinds of food and drinks were served?

New words and Idioms:

Christenings: Godfather, godmother, godchild, holy water, etc.

Weddings (Religious or Civil): Getting hitched, tying the knot, till death do us part, elope, divorce, break-up, shotgun wedding, bridesmaids, groomsmen, bride, groom, ushers, bridal registry, bridal shower, bachelorette/bachelor party, etc.

Funerals and/or Memorial Services: Pass away, pass on, funeral home, cremation, embalming, autopsy, burial, mausoleum, urn, ashes, headstone, engrave, cemetery, casket, etc.

Food-related Social Events: House warming, potlucks, brunch, formal dinner, BBQ, company picnic, office holiday party, pajama party (slumber party), tailgate party, birthdays, anniversaries, host/hostess, drop in, drop by, punctual, open house, BYOB, RSVP, etc.

Background:

Business and social events are important in any culture. They provide a way to deal with birth, marriage, death. Business and social events are also important stepping-stones to adulthood and acceptance in the community.



In pairs for 5 minutes, ask and answer questions about these business and social events to fill in the chart:

Occasion	Clothing	Gift? (Cost)	Arrival time
Children's birthday	Ask host – or see invitation	\$5-10 (depends on age)	Punctual
Funeral			
Wedding			
Work Party			

Share your partner's answers with the group.

Discussion Questions:

Have you ever been to a christening, wedding or a funeral in the U.S.? What happened? Is it similar to what you do in your country?

Did anything surprise you?

Who attends these events in your country?

How do you express condolences or congratulations? What do you say? Do you give a gift?

What clothing and colors are appropriate to wear on these occasions (in your country and in the U.S.)?

Where do these events take place?

Who plans or pays for these events?

Have you ever been to any food-related social events in the U.S.? What happened?

Was it similar to what you do in your country?

Was there anything you didn't understand?

What did you enjoy?

Was there anything that you didn't like?

Did you take something with you? In your country, is it appropriate to give something to the host/hostess?

Where do people entertain in your country?

Has your child ever been invited to a birthday party in the U.S.? If so, how was the party similar and/or different than a birthday party in your native country?

What are the "rules" for time and punctuality in your country? What are some similarities/differences to the rules in the U.S.?

What is acceptable dress/behavior for business and social occasions in your country? In the U.S.?