



Situations pratiques
Dialogues-clés
Expressions utiles

Coffret audio (CD + Livret)

Prendre contact et faire connaissance en anglais

Part 7. Saying goodbye



Saying you are leaving

Listen to the conversations as people prepare to leave at the end of the evening.

Ellen Grady: Well, I should be going.

Matt Johnson: So soon?

Ellen Grady: Yes, I've got an early morning tomorrow.

Matt Johnson: That's too bad. I'll walk you to your car.

Ellen Grady: Thanks.

Irene Johnson: Thank you for dinner, Anita.

Anita Fox: You're welcome. You're not leaving already, are you?

Irene Johnson: I'm afraid so. We told the babysitter we'd be back by 11pm.

Anita Fox: Let me get your coats then.

Irene Johnson: Thank you.

➔ Now practise it!

When preparing to leave, Ellen Grady said:

– Well, I should be going.

She could also have said:

– I'm afraid we have to go soon.

– We should head home soon.

– We need to get on our way.

As hosts, you could reply:

– So soon?

– Already?

– Can't you stay a bit longer?



In general, Americans do not stay long after finishing a meal at someone's home. However, in the UK, it is often considered rude to leave too soon after the meal is finished.

Thanking your host

Thanking your hosts is important in both British and American cultures. Listen to the conversations as people express their appreciation.



Ben Middleton: Thank you so much for the invitation, Andrea.

Andrea Rice: Well, you're very welcome.

Ben Middleton: We had a lovely time.

Andrew Hill: This was a wonderful evening, Bill. Thank you for having us over.

Bill Anderson: Absolutely. We're glad you could come.

Andrew Hill: Thank you for inviting us.

Jeana DeVant: Thanks again for having us, Jenny.

Jenny Russell: Oh, it's our pleasure. I'm so happy we were able to find a date that worked for everyone.

Jeana DeVant: We'll have to do this again soon, but next time we'll host.

Jenny Russell: That sounds great.

→ Now practise it!

When thanking the host, Ben Middleton said:

- Thank you so much for the invitation.

He could also have said:

- Thank you for inviting us.
- We appreciate the invitation.
- Thank you for thinking of us.

And then followed up with:

- It's been a wonderful evening.
- We had a great time.
- It was nice to meet your friends.
- We enjoyed spending time with you.
- Dinner was delicious.



Arranging to meet again

Often when leaving, tentative plans may be made for the next visit or event together. Listen to the conversations and note how plans are suggested, but nothing is truly finalised. People will contact each other at a later date to actually make final plans.



Irene Johnson: We really should get together again soon.

Anita Fox: Yes, let's.

Irene Johnson: Are you around next month?

Anita Fox: We should be here most of the time.

Irene Johnson: Great! I'll call you and we'll set something up.

Ben Middleton: Well, that was an interesting meeting.

Andrea Rice: It certainly was. I'm headed to the bar for a drink with some people from accounting. Care to join us?

Ben Middleton: No, thanks. I'd better get on home. See you tomorrow.

Andrea Rice: Okay, bye.

Andrew Hill: Next time, you'll have to come to our place.

Bill Anderson: We'd like that, wouldn't we, Charlotte?

Charlotte Anderson: Oh yes. We love getting out of the city and into the countryside.

Andrew Hill: Then it's all settled. We'll call you to set it up.

Ellen Grady: I hope we'll see you again soon, Matt.

Matt Johnson: Yes, that would be nice. Alicia said you're coming to the convention next month, is that right?

Ellen Grady: Yes, I'm planning on it.

Matt Johnson: Good. Well, hopefully I'll see you before then, in any case.

→ Now practise it!

Irene Johnson said:

– We really should get together again soon.

She could also have said:

– I hope we'll see you again soon.

– We'd like to have your family over.

– Next time, you'll have to come to our place.

– Let's get together again soon.

– Next time, we'll do this at our place.

Saying goodbye

After thanking the host and possibly making plans to see each other again, the goodbyes can begin. Listen as people say goodbye at the door on their way out.



Anita Fox: Have you got everything? Your handbag, coats?

Irene Johnson: Yes, thank you.

Anita Fox: Well, drive safely.

Irene Johnson: We will. It was great seeing you again. Goodbye!

Anita Fox: Goodbye!

Ellen Grady: Goodbye, Matt.

Matt Johnson: Bye, Ellen. Have a safe trip home.

Ellen Grady: Thanks!

Good to know

Friends will often simply say 'bye' instead of 'goodbye', both in person and on the telephone. So whilst in a formal context "Goodbye, Mr Adams," is appropriate, in an informal context, "Bye, Tom," is fine.

Useful words and phrases

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| – I'm afraid we have to go soon. | – <i>Malheureusement, nous devons partir bientôt.</i> |
| – We need to get on our way. | – <i>Nous devons nous mettre en route.</i> |
| – I'd better get on home. | – <i>Je ferais mieux de rentrer.</i> |
| – We appreciate the invitation. | – <i>Merci pour votre invitation.</i> |
| – Thank you for having us over. | – <i>Merci de nous avoir reçus.</i> |
| – We had a great time. | – <i>Nous avons passé un très bon moment.</i> |
| – It was nice to meet your friends. | – <i>C'était sympa de rencontrer vos amis.</i> |
| – We enjoyed spending time with you. | – <i>Nous avons apprécié ce temps passé en votre compagnie.</i> |
| – We really should get together again soon. | – <i>Il faut vraiment que nous nous revoyions bientôt.</i> |
| – Next time, you'll have to come to our place. | – <i>La prochaine fois, vous viendrez chez nous.</i> |
| – Hopefully I'll see you before then. | – <i>J'espère vous revoir avant.</i> |
| – Let's get together again soon. | – <i>Il faudra remettre ça bientôt !</i> |