



Unit 6 Party time!

Before you read

Think about these questions. Do you like going to dinner parties? Do you like hosting dinner parties at your home? Why or why not?

Read the article

Progressive Dinner Parties

¹ Last week, a neighbor in my apartment building invited me to a progressive dinner party. When she told me about it, I had my doubts. It sounded complicated—I had to make a dish, but we needed to go from apartment to apartment to eat. Nevertheless, I decided to give it a try. It turned out to be a great experience!

² A progressive dinner is similar to a potluck supper, where each person makes one dish for everyone to share. At a progressive dinner, each course—the appetizer, main course, and dessert—is served at a different house. Guests start in the first house for the appetizer, and then move to the next house for the main course. Then everyone meets for coffee and dessert at the third house.

³ Progressive dinners work well when people live close to one another, such as in the same neighborhood or apartment building. Then everyone can walk from house to house. Guests don't have to worry about driving, and they can get some exercise between courses.

⁴ There are many ways to plan the menu for a progressive dinner. One way is to let each person choose a dish to cook. This arrangement is convenient for everyone, but sometimes the dishes don't go well together. Another way is to give the party a theme. For example, everyone can prepare food from a particular country or for a specific holiday or from recipes in the same cookbook. When there is a theme, the meal is better planned and the dishes go well together.

⁵ At the progressive dinner that I attended in my neighborhood, the theme was corn. Each person made a different dish with corn, such as corn bread, corn stew, and corn pudding. Then, as each dish was served, the person who prepared it explained how it was made. It was a wonderful dinner. The food was delicious, and we had fun learning how to make the various dishes. It was also interesting to learn how many dishes can be made with corn. But more importantly, I met my neighbors and made a lot of new friends. Now my neighbors and I are planning to have a progressive dinner every year!



Build your reading skills: Summarizing the main ideas

Complete each sentence with the ending that best summarizes the *main idea* of each paragraph in the article. Circle the letter of your answer.

- Paragraph 1 The author _____.
- a. lives in an apartment building
 - b. went to her first progressive dinner party last week
 - c. doesn't like complicated dinner parties
- Paragraph 2 At a progressive dinner, each guest makes a dish and _____.
- a. eats with neighbors
 - b. has coffee and dessert at the end
 - c. goes from house to house to eat each course
- Paragraph 3 Progressive dinners _____.
- a. work well when people live close together
 - b. are easier if you have a car
 - c. are a good way to get exercise
- Paragraph 4 The menu for a progressive dinner _____.
- a. should always have a theme
 - b. does not need to be planned
 - c. can be planned with or without a theme
- Paragraph 5 The author _____.
- a. enjoyed meeting her neighbors at the progressive dinner
 - b. ate a lot at the progressive dinner
 - c. made a dish with corn for the progressive dinner

Check your comprehension

Read the article again. Cross out the incorrect information in each sentence. Then write the correct information above the incorrect part.

enjoyed

1. The author ~~didn't enjoy~~ her first progressive party.
2. One person makes all the dishes for a progressive dinner.
3. At a progressive dinner, the guests eat each course in the same house.
4. If each person chooses a dish to cook, the dishes always go well together.
5. At the progressive dinner in the author's neighborhood, everyone made the same dish.
6. The author and her neighbors are not planning any more progressive dinners.