

Segment 14 (Units 25–28)

Fabulous parties on a budget

Genre: Lifestyle program

Viewing Time: 4:06

Background Information

Lifestyle programs are increasingly popular on English-language television. One very popular type of lifestyle program includes tips from experts on how to cook for and entertain guests.

Vocabulary for Comprehension

Preview the vocabulary with your students.

assume: *to think that something is true although you have no proof of it*

bulk: *large quantity*

BYOB: *Bring Your Own Bottle/Beverage; used when inviting someone to an informal party to tell them they must bring their own drinks*

catering: *the activity of providing and serving food and drinks at parties for money*

crisp: *pleasantly dry and hard enough to be easily broken*

cuisine: *a particular style of cooking*

dumpling wrapper: *a piece of dough that covers meat or vegetables*

emphasize: *show that an opinion, ideal, quality, etc. is especially important*

extravagant: *spending a lot of money on things that are not necessary*

farmers' market: *a place where farmers bring their produce to sell directly to people*

go all out: *do something with a lot of energy and determination*

on a budget: *not having much money*

phenomenal: *very unusual and impressive*

produce: *fruits and vegetables*

tacky: *showing that you do not have good judgment about what is socially acceptable*

themed: *having a particular style*

voilà: *[French] used when suddenly showing or telling someone something surprising*

wise: *intelligent*

Answer Key

Previewing (Answers may vary—as long as they are appropriate guesses, accept them for now.)

1. They are entertaining experts / a lifestyle show host and a caterer.
2. They are in a kitchen.
3. They are filming a lifestyle show / talking about how to entertain on a budget.
4. It's about entertaining on a budget.

In-Depth Viewing

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|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. catering company | 4. Chinatown / can get the best prices |
| 2. spending your money wisely | 5. cheap |
| 3. farmers' markets | 6. This way, they feel like they're "part of the party" right away. |



Video Script

Malcolm: Welcome. *Bienvenidos. Bonjour.* I'm Malcolm Marsh, and I'm so glad you could make it to the party! Today, we'll be discussing ways to entertain on a budget. To help us with some ideas, please welcome my good friend, Jimmy Lee. Jimmy is the owner of one of L.A.'s most successful catering companies, "Golden Apple Catering."

Jimmy: Thanks, Malcolm. It's nice to be here.

Malcolm: Jimmy, when most people hear the word *budget*, they automatically assume "cheap." I've heard friends of mine say if you can't afford to throw an extravagant party, don't have one at all.

Jimmy: Now, that's just not true! Anyone can afford to throw a great party. Entertaining on a budget doesn't mean you're not going all out for your guests. Entertaining on a budget simply means spending . . . your money . . . *wisely*.

Malcolm: And there are lots of ways to spend wisely. To begin with, let's think about where to buy the food, shall we? As a general rule, you get the best prices on fresh produce at your local farmers' market.

Jimmy: That's right. It's lots of fun to shop at a farmers' market. And everything is much less expensive than at a supermarket.

Malcolm: Plus, you know you're getting the freshest possible produce--farm fresh. Just look at all the beautiful fruit and vegetables we found at our local farmers' market. You know, Chinatown has always been my favorite bargain land. Tell me, Jimmy, what kind of deals can we expect to find in Chinatown?

Jimmy: That's an easy one. I shop in Chinatown for almost everything. The bargains you can get there are phenomenal. Meat and fish, vegetables . . . even flowers and decorations! Just like anywhere else, though, shop around! You may have to go to a lot of different stores, but the savings are incredible!

Malcolm: Which doesn't mean you necessarily have to throw an Asian-themed party, although it's not a bad idea if you're on a budget. Asian cuisine traditionally emphasizes vegetables, noodles, and rice, all foods that are budget-friendly.

Jimmy: These pork and spinach dumplings are a good example of what you might make with the ingredients that you buy in Chinatown. I was able to get three pounds of ground pork for four dollars! I also got three pounds of spinach for a dollar. And the dumpling wrappers were only two dollars for a large package.

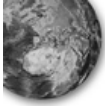
Malcolm: *Voilà!* A marvelous appetizer! Food for six people, for seven dollars. That's almost a dollar a person. What a bargain!

Jimmy: Another trick to entertaining on a budget is to serve dishes with "bulk." Pasta and rice dishes are examples of "bulk" meals, and so are most soups.

Malcolm: You're right. Most of the ingredients in bulk dishes are inexpensive. And you need just a little meat or seafood to flavor your dish. When served with a colorful, crisp salad, they look just beautiful.

Malcolm: You know, another way to entertain on a budget is to . . . let your guests be part of the fun!

Jimmy: That's right, Malcolm. One of the easiest—and most traditional—ways of spending less for your party is to have your guests bring some of the beverages.



Malcolm: But Jimmy, isn't that a bit tacky to ask your guests to bring something?

Jimmy: No, I don't think so, Malcolm. It's true that "BYOB" parties may not have the reputation for being all that elegant. But it's your party—it's what you serve and how you decorate which makes it elegant. There's no reason why your guests can't bring something along to share. This way, they feel they're part of the party as soon as they arrive!

Malcolm: I couldn't agree more! Well, we must take a little break. We'll be back in a moment. And we'll talk about inexpensive—but fabulous—decorations!