

EPISODE 49

LEVEL B2

READING COMPREHENSION



AT A PARTY

I love going to parties. And in fact it doesn't matter to me what the occasion is, whether it's a **housewarming party**, a **farewell** (= goodbye) **party** or even a **fancy dress party** (= for which you get dressed like someone else). I've also been to a few **stag nights** (= party for a man who is getting married) and I must admit that was great fun!

I'm definitely a **party animal** (= party lover); actually I've heard some people calling me **the life and soul of the party**. And I hope it's true - I really love **entertaining** people (= make people enjoy themselves) and I'm usually the one to start dancing or suggest playing some party games.

The last time I had a **whale of a time** (= had a lot of fun) was at a New Year's party that my friends **threw** (= gave/organized). We spent the whole night celebrating. That party had all the ingredients that a good party should have: a nice place, music **suited to** (= right for) the tastes of the guests, plenty of food and drink and last but not least, **the right mix of people** (= a combination of different types of people). That was a party we'll be talking about for months to come. And the next day I really enjoyed a quiet evening at home **on my own** (= alone).



More contexts for the new words:

- Nobody likes inviting Paul to parties - he is such a **party pooper!**
(= someone who doesn't like parties and spoils other people's enjoyment of these)
- The sinking ship sent **SOS (= save our souls)** signals in the hope of being rescued.
(= a radio signal used for calling help, especially by a ship or plane)
- Unlike my brother, who just loves discussing politics, I'm not a **political animal**.
(= someone who is extremely interested in politics)



EXERCISE 1

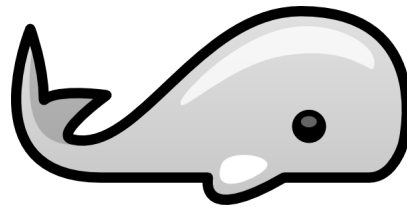
Decide if the sentences below are true or false. Correct the false ones.

1. When you have a whale of a time, you go to the zoo and watch whales.
2. When a person is the life and soul of a party, they are having a great time there.
3. You throw a housewarming party in winter.
4. The right mix of people is a vital element of a good party.
5. For a fancy dress party, you might dress us as a prince or a princess.
6. You can be on your own only at home.

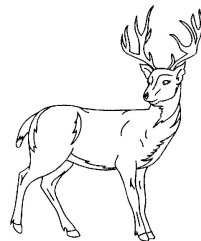


EXERCISE 2

Use the pictures to complete the questions. Then answer the questions.



1. When did you last have a of a time?



2. What is the best idea for a night?
3. What costume would you most like to wear to a fancy



party? Why?

ENGLISH IN USE



The text says:

*That party had **all** the ingredients that a good party should have.
We spent the **whole** night celebrating.*

Today I'd like to concentrate on two words which are often confused and used wrongly, because of many similarities between them: 'all' and 'whole'.

1) Generally speaking, WHOLE has the meaning of 'all of something', but look how you can use it with other words:

***My whole** family met during our wedding last year.
The whole book takes weeks to read.
This is the best cake in **the whole world**.*

In the examples above, we can see that 'whole' is followed by singular nouns and can be preceded by pronouns such as 'my/his etc.'

2) The use of ALL is a bit more complex. ALL may be followed by uncountable or plural nouns (in contrast to 'whole'), e.g.

*He thinks that **all students** should receive a grant from the state.
Have you spent **all your money**?*

It can also go with words such as 'the', 'this' or 'his' and nouns, e.g.

*I want to see **all the employees** tomorrow.
So, you've been sitting here **all this time**!
He spent **all his life** working as a clerk.*

And finally, ALL is often used with time words, meaning 'the whole of the period of time', as in the following phrases:

*I've been working in the garden **all day** and I'm exhausted.
She worked **all year** without a break, so she deserves a holiday now.*

IDIOM CLOSE-UP



A/ Why did Jane even bother coming to the party? She's such **A WALLFLOWER!**
B/ I know. She seems to be having no fun at all.

A wallflower is someone at a social event who has no one to dance with or talk to, often because they are shy. This is the opposite of a party animal.

PHRASAL VERBS CLOSE-UP



1. When you **JAZZ** something **UP**, you make it more lively, exciting, or interesting. This is a synonym of 'spice up' from the previous lesson.

Let's **jazz up** the party by having a striptease!
Jazz the dress **up** with some bright accessories.

2. When you **CHEER UP**, you become happier. When you **CHEER** someone **UP**, you try to make them happier.

There's nothing like a good party to **cheer you up**.
I tried to **cheer him up**, but he just kept sitting in the corner.



EXERCISE 3

Match the sentence halves.

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. He jazzed up the food | a. with a spicy sauce. |
| 2. She cheered up | b. and asked her to dance. |
| 3. He took pity on the poor wallflower news. | c. when she heard the good |

NEWS



STUDENT PARTY COMPLAINTS

The neighbours of **student dorms** in Cracow have been **filing complaints with** university authorities regarding the high levels of noise at the weekends. “The students seem to be doing nothing except partying,” says one of the **disgruntled** citizens. “Shouldn’t they be studying or something?” The students **retort** that studying should not only be **drudgery**, and that having fun is **part and parcel** of being a student. And which side do you agree with?

GLOSSARY

- **student dorms** – big buildings where many students live
- **filing complaints with** – complaining to
- **disgruntled** – unhappy
- **retort** – reply
- **drudgery** - boring and unpleasant work that you have to do
- **part and parcel** – a crucial component

KEY TO EXERCISES

Ex. 1

1. False – you have a great time.
2. True
3. False – you throw it when you move into a new house or flat.
4. True
5. True
6. False – also in other places.

Ex. 2

1. whale
2. stag
3. dress

Ex. 3

1. a
2. c
3. b