

EPISODE 50  
LEVEL B2

READING COMPREHENSION



AN INVITATION TO A PARTY

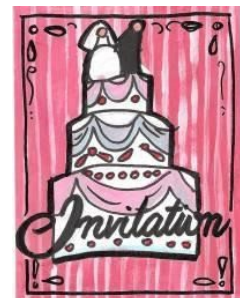
Dear Ann and Tom,

It was great to hear from you. Sorry it's taken me so long to **reply** (= answer), but I've **been up to my eyes in work** (= very busy) recently. I'm **pleased** (= happy) to hear that everything is going well with your family and work.

I'm writing to ask you if you have planned anything for next weekend. I was wondering if you'd like to come down here and spend the Saturday with us. We would like you to **join us** (= come to us) for a small party to celebrate our 15th wedding anniversary. Please, **bring your kids along** (= take them with you) too. I'm sorry it's such **short notice** (= not much time left), but our old friends, who we'd love to be there with us, cannot **make it** (= come) later.

I hope you can come. Please, **drop us a line** (= write) to let us know.

Love,  
Christina



More contexts for the new words:

- Pat **dropped** the plate and it broke.  
(= let something fall down)
- Landlords usually require **a month's notice** if you want to move out.  
(= the period between the time you tell someone you are going to do something and the time you do it)
- I'm writing **in reply to** your letter of 10 September.  
(= in response to/answering)



### EXERCISE 1

Match the expression halves.

- |                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| 1. drop us            | a. notice  |
| 2. cannot make        | b. in work |
| 3. short              | c. a line  |
| 4. bring a friend     | d. us      |
| 5. join               | e. along   |
| 6. be up to your eyes | f. it      |



### EXERCISE 2

Complete each gap with one word, then answer the questions.

1. When was the last time you were up to your ..... in work? What happened?
2. Is it ok for parents to bring their kids ..... when they go to a restaurant? Why/ why not?
3. When did you last ..... your best friend a line? What did you write about?

## ENGLISH IN USE



There are two sentences in the letter which include adverbs used for emphasizing a quality, feeling or amount:

*Sorry it's taken me **so** long to reply.  
I'm sorry it's **such** short notice.*

The meaning of both 'so' and 'such' is very similar, yet they do differ when it comes to usage. You simply have to be careful about the word that follows and depending on that, choose 'so' or 'such'.

'So' is followed by adjectives or adverbs as well as by quantifiers (many, much, few, little), e.g.

*She is **so** clever!  
It all happened **so** quickly!  
They earn **so** much money they don't know what to do with it.  
I have **so** few friends here in Warsaw.*

'Such' is followed by nouns or an adjective + noun combination; there is also one quantifier which uses 'such' - 'a lot of'. If the noun is singular, you use 'such a', if the noun is plural or uncountable, only 'such' is required. Look at the examples:

Why do you ask **such** questions?

I'd love to have **such a dress**.

Andy is **such a kind man**.

I hate **such hot weather!**

There are **such a lot of people** in shops before Christmas.

## IDIOM CLOSE-UP



A/ This is Henry's seventh shot of vodka!

B/ He sure **DRINKS LIKE A FISH!**

If somebody **drinks like a fish**, they drink a lot of alcohol regularly.

## PHRASAL VERBS CLOSE-UP



1. When you **DRINK TO** something, you wish for health, happiness, or success for someone, then lift your glass and drink from it.

Let's **drink to** the bride and groom.

"Here's to a happy future then." "I'll **drink to** that!"

2. When you **DRINK** something **IN**, you experience it with great enjoyment.

Sit out on the terrace and **drink in** the amazing view.

They **drank in** the words of their leader.



### EXERCISE 3

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

1. When you drink something in, you drink a whole glass very quickly.
2. When you drink to someone's health, you wish them well.
3. When you drink like a fish, you drink a lot of water.



## NEWS

### GUEST LIST

With the wedding season upon us, the couples about to get married face the **perennial** problem: who to invite? Of course, they would like to invite all the friends and relatives, but – more often than not – the wedding budget won't stretch that far. So, how do you make the selection so that **the newly-weds** don't immediately become **the black sheep** of the family? Well, you definitely have to include your parents, siblings, **godparents**, and best friends. Add to that the obligatory "**plus ones**," and the list grows rather huge. Of course, you mustn't forget to invite anyone who has invited you to their ceremony! **Overwhelmed?** Try hiring a wedding planner – she will make all the choices for you. For a fee!

### GLOSSARY

- **perennial** – permanent, recurring
- **the newly-weds** – the couple that have just got married
- **the black sheep** – someone not approved of because they are thought to behave badly
- **godparents** – the special people during the baptism ceremony
- **plus ones** – people accompanying the main guests, e.g. boyfriends/ girlfriends
- **overwhelmed** – shocked

## KEY TO EXERCISES

### Ex.1

1. c
2. f
3. a
4. e
5. d
6. b

### Ex. 2

1. eyes
2. along
3. drop

### Ex.3

1. False – you enjoy something.
2. True
3. False - you drink a lot of alcohol.