

ROLE PLAY: VISITING A FRIEND AT HOME

B1-B2 | Teens / Adults | Speaking + Functional Language | 45-55 minutes

1. USEFUL PHRASES

Guest

Thanks so much for having me.
I should have mentioned earlier that ...
Please don't go to any trouble.
Could I give you a hand with ...?
I hope you don't mind, but ...
I'm afraid I'll need to leave early.
I'd love to stay, but ...
Let's arrange another evening soon.

Host

Make yourself at home.
I'm glad you could come.
Thanks for letting me know.
There's no need to apologise.
Would this work instead?
I'll save some for you.
Would you like help arranging transport?
Let's find a time that suits us both.

2. MODEL CONVERSATIONS

A. A CHANGE TO DINNER

Host: Come in! **I'm glad you could come.** Dinner won't be long.

Guest: **Thanks so much for having me.** The kitchen smells wonderful.

Host: It's a mushroom pie. Would you like some wine while we wait?

Guest: Water would be lovely. Also, **I should have mentioned earlier that** I don't eat dairy.

Host: **Thanks for letting me know.** The pie has butter, so let's find something else for you.

Guest: I'm sorry I didn't tell you. **Please don't go to any trouble.**

Host: It's fine. I've got roasted vegetables and rice ready. **Would this work instead?**

Guest: Yes, that sounds great. **Could I give you a hand with** setting the table?

Host: That would be lovely. The plates are in that cupboard; we need four.

Guest: Four? I thought it was just the two of us tonight.

Host: My sister and her partner are coming too. I think you'll get on well with them.

Guest: Oh, nice. I'll put out four glasses as well, then.

B. LEAVING SOONER THAN PLANNED

Guest: **I hope you don't mind, but** I'll need to leave before dessert. My neighbour's locked herself out.

Host: Oh dear. Does she need your spare key?

Guest: Yes, and she's waiting outside. **I'd love to stay, but** I don't want to leave her there.

Host: Of course. **There's no need to apologise.** Would a taxi get you home quicker?

Guest: Probably, though I'm not sure how long one would take to arrive.

Host: I'll check if you'd like. You can gather your things while I do that.

Guest: Thanks. I feel bad leaving when you've made such a lovely dinner.

Host: Don't worry. **I'll save some for you** to take home another day.

Guest: That's kind. **Let's arrange another evening soon,** when I can stay longer.

Host: Definitely. How about next Friday? We're both off work the following day.

Guest: That sounds good. I'll check my diary once I'm home and message you.

Host: Perfect. The taxi's five minutes away, so you've time to collect your coat.

Notice how the speakers give details, ask follow-up questions and respond to each other.

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3. ROLE-PLAY CARDS

Work in pairs. Read only your own role. Decide what to say; don't write a full script. Find a solution, then swap roles and change one detail.

ROLE PLAY 1: A DIETARY PREFERENCE

Student A - Guest

You're visiting a friend for dinner and realise you forgot to say you don't eat dairy. Explain politely before eating. You don't have an allergy, but want to keep your usual diet. Offer to help and avoid demanding a completely new meal.

Student B - Host

Your main dish contains dairy, but rice, vegetables and fruit are ready without it. Ask what your guest can eat, explain the alternatives and respond warmly. You'd appreciate help setting the table. Don't pressure them to eat something they don't want.

ROLE PLAY 2: AN EARLY DEPARTURE

Student A - Guest

A neighbour needs your spare key urgently, so you must leave before dessert. Explain briefly, thank your host and ask about the quickest transport option. You'd like to arrange another visit, but must check your diary before promising a date.

Student B - Host

Accept the guest's need to leave. A taxi can arrive in five minutes; the next bus is in twenty. Offer practical help and suggest another evening. Don't make them feel guilty or insist on a firm date before they've checked.

ROLE PLAY 3: OFFERING TO HELP

Student A - Guest

You've arrived early for a birthday dinner. Your host seems busy, and you don't know the other guests. Offer useful help, ask where things belong and start a conversation with someone arriving. You'd prefer a quiet task to cooking.

Student B - Host

You're finishing dinner and would welcome help with plates, glasses and coats. Don't ask the guest to cook. Introduce another guest who also enjoys walking, and help the two find something to talk about. Ask rather than assuming they want a job.

After each role play: Say what you agreed and which phrase helped. Repeat with one new detail.

Teacher note: Prepare for 2-3 minutes and speak for 3-4 minutes. Encourage follow-up questions, not memorised scripts. Prices, times and service rules in this lesson are fictional.