

BBC Learning English

How to ... *make polite invitations*



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Quiz

For each question choose the one correct answer.

1: _____ to come to my house for dinner?

- a:** Do you like
- b:** Would you like
- c:** Will you like

2: I _____ like to see my photos

- a:** wondered if you
- b:** wondered if you'd
- c:** wandered if you'd

3: I _____ if you would like to join me for a pint after work

- a:** was wondering
- b:** was wondered
- c:** am wondering

4: Are you _____ on Friday evening?

- a:** occupied
- b:** vacant
- c:** free

5: I _____ if you could come along

- a:** would very much like it
- b:** would very like it much
- c:** will like it very much

6: Shall I bring _____?

- a:** a bottle?
- b:** some bottle of wine?
- c:** some wines?

ANSWERS

For each question choose the one correct answer.

1: _____ to come to my house for dinner?

a: Do you like

Wrong – You are not asking about general likes and dislikes, so ‘Do...’ is wrong

b: Would you like

Correct – This is a polite way to offer something or make an invitation

c: Will you like

Wrong – You are not asking about a future plan but an idea, so the future tense is wrong

2: I _____ like to see my photos

a: wondered if you

Wrong – you need to have ‘would’ in this sentence, either in a full or contracted form

b: wondered if you’d

Correct – this is a polite way to offer something or make an invitation

c: wandered if you’d

Wrong – Be careful! ‘Wandered’ has the same pronunciation as ‘wondered’ but a different meaning

3: I _____ if you would like to join me for a pint after work

a: was wondering

Correct – this is a polite way to invite someone out for a drink after work

b: was wondered

Wrong – This shouldn’t be in the passive voice, so you don’t need ‘was’

c: am wondering

Wrong – We usually use simple past tense or past continuous with this phrase

4: Are you _____ on Friday evening?

a: occupied

Wrong – This is correct grammar, but ‘occupied’ is too formal

b: vacant

Wrong – We tend to use vacant to mean ‘empty’, e.g. ‘Is this seat vacant?’

c: free

Correct – this is a very common way to check if someone is busy

5: I _____ if you could come along

a: would very much like it

Correct – This is a very polite and friendly way to invite someone

b: would very like it much

Wrong – Check your word order here

c: will like it very much

Wrong – This sentence is not in the future tense

6: Shall I bring _____?

a: a bottle?

Correct – This is a normal way to offer to bring a drink, usually wine

b: a wine?

Wrong – ‘wine’ is normally uncountable. So ‘Shall I bring some wine?’ would be OK

c: some wines?

Wrong – ‘wine’ is normally uncountable. So ‘Shall I bring some wine?’ would be OK