

Levantine Arabic transcript:

المرأة خلف الكاميرا: حفلة عشاء, مين اللي بعزم وكيف?
المرأة: حفلة العشاء مفروض يكون ربة البيت ورب البيت.. يعني الأم والأب اللي بدعوا لها.
المرأة خلف الكاميرا: وإيش بصيير?
المرأة: وإذا الحفلة لبنت من بناتهم ممكن انو البننت هي اللي تدعي أصدقائها وصديقاتها على الحفلة.
المرأة خلف الكاميرا: طيب, وإذا واحد بدو يجيب يعني ضيف اضافي.. أو..?
المرأة: هذا طبيعي جدا عنا, عنا معروف الكرم العربي.. انو البيت مفتوح سواء حب يجيب ضيف,
اثنين, ثلاثة, اربعة, اهلا وسهلا فيهم في البيت. عادة يفضل انو اعلامي اني انا مثلا بدي اجيب
اعداد ثانيه حتى الواحد يكون محضر حالوا لإستقبال الضيوف كلهم. بس عادة أهلا وسهلا لكل
ضيف بدخل البيت ما بنقول لا.
المرأة خلف الكاميرا: طيب واحترام المواعيد, كيف يعني مثلا كيف..?
المرأة: طبعا لما انا اكتب على البطاقة انو انا الموعد الساعة الخامسة مثلا مساء او السابعة مساء,
ببقي كتبت انو الحفلة بتأخذ وقت بين السبعة للعشره, فالناس بدها تتقيد بهذه المواعيد وكل واحد بحب
حسب الوقت اللي بناسبوا يجي, المهم انو يكون الوقت مناسب بين السبعة والعشرة. اكثر لأ لأنو يبقى
هذا اتفاقنا مع الماكن اللي بدو يكون فيه الإحتفال.
المرأة خلف الكاميرا: طيب لو إنتي عامله عزيمه في البيت.. آيه..?
المرأة: طبعا, أنو ممكن انا لما بدي اعمل الحفلة في البيت بقول مثلا الساعة ثمانية, يعني في احيانا
الظروف بتجبر الناس انو يجو متأخرين شوي او متقدمين شوي او بنفس الوقت, عادة في احترام
كامل لهاي الأمور, وبتواجد الواحد في الوقت المطلوب منو يكون موجود فيه.

English translation:

Woman behind camera: For a dinner, who invites people and how?

Woman: For a dinner, the husband and the wife do that; I mean the father and the mother are the ones who do it.

Woman behind camera: And what happens?

Woman: And if the dinner is meant for one of their daughters, then it's possible that the daughter is the one who invites her male and female friends to the dinner.

Woman behind camera: Okay. And if someone wants to bring ... ah ... I mean a guest or....

Woman: This is very normal. We, we are known for Arab hospitality and that the house is open if a person wishes to bring two, three, four guests, they are welcomed to the house. Usually it's preferable to inform people that, for instance, I would like to bring a

guest, in order for the person to be prepared to receive all the guests. But usually, each guest is welcomed; we don't say otherwise.

Woman behind camera: Okay. And what about being punctual? How, I mean for example, how...?

Woman: Of course when I write on the invitation that the dinner is at 5:00 p.m., for instance, or 7:00 p.m., it means that I insinuate that the dinner will take place from 7:00 to 10:00. So people comply with these times, and everyone comes according to the time that fits them. The important thing is to come between 7:00 and 10:00. Later than that is rejected because it affects the place we are gathering in.¹

Woman behind camera: What if you have a feast at your home ... ah ... are there specific times or not?

Woman: Of course. If I want to have a feast in my house at, for example, 8:00 o'clock, circumstances sometimes force people to come a little bit late or a little bit early or on time; usually, there is respect in these matters and one would show up on time.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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¹ She means that staying after 10:00 p.m. will affect the people of the household where the dinner is.