

## Introduction

This support pack accompanies the video *How to turn down an invitation*.

To watch the video online, go to:

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/how/how-turn-down-invitation>

This support pack contains the following materials:

- a pre-watching vocabulary activity;
- the transcript;
- a comprehension task



## Before you watch / read

Match the words and phrases in the table to their definitions.

1. formal	2. RSVP	3. appointment
4. vet	5. prior engagement	6. offended

## Definitions:

- A plan made before you received the invitation
- A doctor for animals
- Used at the end of letters to mean 'please reply'
- Upset and angry
- A formal arrangement to meet someone
- Serious and correct

## Transcript: How to turn down an invitation

**Man:** Oh no!

**Woman:** What is it?

**Man:** “Josh and Henrietta would like to have the pleasure of your company at a drinks party, next Saturday evening...”

**Woman:** Oh no – Josh and Henrietta...they’re not that couple who... ?

**Man:** Yeah exactly! And it gets worse...

**Woman:** How?

**Man:** “Formal dress...”

**Woman:** Argh....it means you’ve got to wear a suit....

**Man:** At the bottom it says “RSVP”. What does it mean?

**Woman:** You’ve got to reply.

**Man:** But I don’t want to go, so what can I say?

**Woman:** Tell them you’ve got a dentist’s appointment.

**Man:** Josh is my dentist!

**Woman:** Tell them it’s your grandmother’s 100th birthday party.

**Man:** But they know my granny died ages ago.

**Woman:** Tell them your dog’s sick and you’ve got to take him to see the vet.

**Man:** It’s no use – I’m just going to have to tell them the truth...

**Woman:** The truth? “I’m not coming to your birthday party because I think you’re boring and stupid?”

**Man:** Maybe not then...

**Woman:** Tell them this: “I’m unable to attend because I have a prior engagement.”

**Man:** “Prior engagement”?! And... they won’t be offended?

**Woman:** Absolutely not.

**Man:** Perfect!

## Comprehension task

### Multiple choice

Read the questions and select the right answers.

1. What type of event has the man been invited to?
  - a. A wedding
  - b. A birthday party
  - c. A dinner party
  
2. RSVP means...
  - a. You have to go to the event.
  - b. The invitation is only for you.
  - c. You should reply to the invitation.
  
3. What is the dress code for the party?
  - a. Formal dress
  - b. Casual dress
  - c. Fancy dress
  
4. The woman suggests using a dentist's appointment as an excuse. Why is this not possible?
  - a. The man has no teeth.
  - b. The invitation is from the man's dentist.
  - c. His dentist died a long time ago.
  
5. Why don't the couple want to go to the party?
  - a. Josh and Henrietta are not good company.
  - b. Josh and Henrietta are mean.
  - c. Josh and Henrietta are a bit scary.
  
6. What excuse do they decide to use?
  - a. They are getting engaged.
  - b. The man's dog is sick.
  - c. The man has an appointment that he made before.

## Answers

*ComprehensionTask: 1 - b, 2 - c, 3 - a, 4 - b, 5 - a, 6 - c*

*Before you watch: 1 - f, 2 - c, 3 - e, 4 - b, 5 - a, 6 - d*