



18 Courtesies

1.45 Wilbur and Charlene Meeks have just had dinner with Wilbur's boss.

Wilbur: Well, I think we'd better be going. It's almost ten thirty.

Helena: Is that really the time? Time flies when you're enjoying yourself. Um, I hope you've had a good time.

Wilbur: Yes, we have. Thank you for inviting us.

Charlene: We've had a really wonderful evening.

Helena: I'm so glad you enjoyed yourselves.

Charlene: Oh, yes, we did. It was a delicious meal.

Helena: Thank you.

Wilbur: I'm so sorry about the carpet. I hope you can get it clean.

Helena: I'm sure we can.

Charlene: I hope I didn't offend you. It's a very nice fur coat ... it's just that, well, I think it's wrong to kill little animals for fur, you know.

Helena: Uh huh. You told me.

Wilbur: Anyway, our cab should be here any minute.

Charlene: Next time, you'll have to come over to our place for dinner.

Helena: Yes. Thank you.

Wilbur: I think I hear our cab now. Please thank Mr. Devereux, I mean, Max, for us ...

Charlene: ... when he wakes up, that is.

Helena: Of course I will. Uh, I'm very sorry that Max fell asleep ...



1 In groups of three, have a similar conversation and replace the key phrases, in color, with the ones below.

We have to go now.
We'd better go now.
It's time we were going.
It's time for us to leave.

Thank you for a nice evening.
I really enjoyed it!
Thanks for dinner!
Thanks for having us!
I haven't enjoyed myself so much for a long time!
It was a wonderful evening!

Thank you for coming!
It was a pleasure having you.
Don't mention it.
You're welcome.

It's our turn next time.
I hope you can join us for dinner next time.
We should do this again.

2 List polite excuses for leaving a social event early. Use these in a conversation and remember to thank your host.

1.46 For example, listen:

Guest: I'm sorry. I have to catch the last train.

Host: Well, thank you for coming.

Guest: Thank you for inviting me.

Host: You're very welcome. Come again.

3 Discuss:

- Why did Wilbur apologize?
- What do you think Charlene said about fur coats?
- Why do you think Max fell asleep?

Culture File 18 Socializing