

London Life

The office Christmas party



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Opening sig

Callum: Hello, I'm Callum Robertson, and this is London Life. In the programme today we're going to hear about a special kind of Christmas party - not the kind you have at home for friends - but what we call 'the office Christmas party' or, less formally, 'the office Christmas do'. Typically, these parties take place *outside* the office, so as Christmas approaches, London's bars, restaurants and nightclubs are packed with groups of 'colleagues', or people who work together, having fun. Here's Jo, a frequent party goer, talking about her best office Christmas party. She says it was a great way 'to mix' with colleagues and 'do something that you wouldn't normally do'. But what else made the party so successful?

Jo Dur: 22"

"The best Christmas party I went to was one where there was a disco. So we had some really nice food and chatting with lots of people and lots of drinks, which often helps! But there was a disco as well so everyone, once they'd relaxed, started dancing and it went on quite late and it was just a really fun way to mix with your colleagues and do something that you wouldn't normally do."

Callum: So for Jo, the magic ingredients for a good office party are dancing to disco music, eating delicious food, talking informally or 'chatting', and drinking, probably alcoholic drinks. Next, Vicki, who has just organised her office Christmas party. She talks about one of the challenges of going out after work – do you 'dress up' in your party clothes *before* you come to work in the morning, or do you join 'a crush', a crowd, of people getting 'changed' into their party clothes in 'the loo', the toilet, just before leaving the office?

Vicki Dur: 24"

"Often people like to dress up for their Christmas parties, especially if they're going out of the office to a bar or nightclub or something. They like to look nice and put their makeup on and do their hair. And of course the question is do you do that in the morning and wear your party

clothes all day at work, or do you sort of join a crush of people at the end of the day in the loo all trying to get changed!”

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Callum: And when the party’s over, there’s the challenge of getting safely home from central London, hours later than usual. You might have to pay for a taxi ride, or wait a long time for a train or a ‘night bus’. Try to catch the three adjectives Vicki uses to describe getting home...

Vicki Dur: 12”

“Sometimes it could be very expensive if you have to end up getting a taxi home, or it could be very long-winded and unpleasant if you have to sit on a night bus for ages, or wait for a long time for a bus or train.”

Callum: Vicki says your journey home might be ‘expensive’, it might cost a lot. It might also be ‘long-winded’; it might take a very long time. And it might be ‘unpleasant’, it might be far less enjoyable than the party! So finally, how best to have a good night out? Jo gives a few ‘tips’...

Jo Dur: 22”

“My advice for a Christmas party would be to enjoy yourself, but not to drink too much. And if you’ve had a few drinks, just be careful what you say. Don’t talk about work and start telling the boss what you think of them, and don’t embarrass yourself in front of your colleagues because you have to come to work the next day, sober, and face everybody!”

Callum: Jo’s recipe for enjoying yourself, and enjoying work the next day when you’re ‘sober’ and not drinking alcohol, is simply: don’t drink too much, and be careful what you say – don’t discuss work and don’t ‘start telling your boss what you think of them’. In other words, be sociable, friendly and professional...

Now here’s a recap of some of the language we’ve heard today:

What’s a less formal name for the office Christmas party?

The office Christmas do.

The people you work with are...

Your colleagues.

Which adjective means costing a lot of money?

Expensive.

If you have not drunk any alcohol, you are...

Sober.

That's all for now. Goodbye.

Closing sig