

Scénario : Chez le traiteur

Chantal organise l'anniversaire de sa fille. Elle passe chez Monsieur Michel, le traiteur, pour passer commande.

Chantal is planning her daughter's birthday party. She goes to Mr Michel's shop, the caterer, to place an order.

Chantal : Bonjour, Monsieur. Voilà, j'organise une petite fête d'anniversaire samedi prochain avec des amis, et j'aimerais commander quelques hors-d'œuvre ou amuse-gueule.

Chantal: Good morning, Sir. I'm having a little birthday party next Saturday with some friends, and I would like to order a few hors d'oeuvre or appetizers.

M. Michel : Très bien, Madame. Est-ce que ce sont des adultes ou des enfants ?

Mr Michel: Very well, Madam. Are they adults or children?

Chantal : Les deux.

Chantal: Both.

M. Michel : C'est pour midi ou le soir ?

Mr Michel: Is it for lunch or diner?

Chantal : En fin d'après-midi, en fait. Donc il ne faut pas que ça soit trop copieux.

Chantal: In fact, it is for the end of the afternoon. So it shouldn't be too filling.

M. Michel : D'accord. Vous serez combien ?

Mr Michel: All right. How many will be there?

Chantal : Onze ou douze, je ne suis pas sûre...

Chantal: Eleven or twelve, I am not sure...

M. Michel : Disons douze. Et vous voulez y mettre combien?

Mr Michel: Let's say twelve. And how much do you want to pay?

Chantal : Oh, pas plus de 100-120 euros.

Chantal: Oh, no more than 100-120 euros.

M. Michel : Très bien. Voilà, je peux vous proposer un assortiment de canapés, petites bouchées apéritif salées, avec des mini pizzas, mini quiches, petits choux farcis, etc. Et on peut y ajouter quelques légumes crus, ce n'est pas trop cher et c'est rafraîchissant. Pour 10 portions chacun, ça vous coûtera environ 10 euros par personne.

Mr Michel: Very good. Here we are, I can offer you a set of canapés, small salted appetizers, with mini pizzas, mini quiches, stuffed pastry shells, etc. And we can add some raw vegetables, it is not too expensive and refreshing. For 10 portions per person, it will cost you approximately 10 euros per person.

Chantal : Et bien c'est parfait ! Est-ce que vous pouvez livrer à domicile ?

Chantal: Well, that is perfect! Do you make deliveries?

M. Michel : Bien sûr. Donnez-moi l'adresse, et l'heure, et on vous livrera les plateaux.

Mr Michel: Of course, give me the address, and the time, and we will deliver the trays.

Chantal : Merci beaucoup.

Chantal: Thanks a lot.



Birthday Party (cont'd)

it as an illustration for the card. If not, Photoshop can do wonderful things... The most important thing to keep in mind is that the tone is pleasant, enticing and with a little humour. See page 16 for a sample of the wording you could use for the invitation.

Diner or teatime?

The party can simply be a diner in the evening, an afternoon at teatime if you invite only children, or a late evening after diner if there are no children. Such gatherings rarely take place during the lunchtime. If you invite both adults and children, a good formula is to chose the end of the afternoon. The easiest thing

to do if you want to avoid a few headaches, and also to make sure to do things properly, is to order some appetizers from a local caterer to accompany the aperitif. See above how to place an order at the caterer's. And, of course, you will have to order a birthday cake at a pastry shop. You can ask them to write "Happy Birthday" on the cake, and



Birthday Party (cont'd)

even the name of the person. And don't forget the candles!

As regards the drinks, some champagne or good quality sparkling wine (such as *Crément de Bourgogne*, cheaper than champagne) is always welcome for a birthday party. And the children too like sparkling drinks made with fruit juices. But if you organize the party at aperitif time, you can also simply offer traditional French drinks served at that time, different according to the region: *Kir* or *Porto* almost everywhere, *pastis* in the south,

Pineau des Charentes in the west, etc.

You must also be aware that when French people are invited to someone's house, they always bring something! Of course, for a birthday they will offer a gift to the person concerned. But it is not impossible that they also come with a bottle of something to drink! They may even ask you what they could bring. But unless you know them very well, it is better not to give them a list of what you need...

By the way, if children are invited to the birthday of one of your kids, it is a good idea to prepare small gifts for each of them, gifts that they could, for exam-

ple, win during a game (See our third Scenario page 17).

And don't get upset if your guests arrive a little late. In France, it is in good taste to arrive at least 10-15 minutes late, sometimes even more. It is even impolite to arrive exactly on time – and even more so to get there early! A good thing to know, when you too are invited out...

Happy Birthday!



Don't forget the candles!

Quelques expressions et mots courants

Un anniversaire = a birthday

Un anniversaire de mariage = an wedding anniversary

Bon/joyeux Anniversaire ! = Happy Birthday!



= a birthday cake

Une soirée anniversaire = might be a birthday evening, but also a celebration evening of any event.

Quel âge as-tu/avez-vous ? = How old are you? (be careful not to ask the question in this direct way to a French woman, even if you know her quite well ! She

Un cadeau d'anniversaire
= a birthday present

Une carte d'anniversaire
= a birthday card

Un dîner d'anniversaire =
a birthday dinner

Une fête d'anniversaire =
a birthday party

Un gâteau d'anniversaire

may not appreciate it at all).

Cela te/vous fait quel âge maintenant ? = How old are you now? (idem)

Un carton d'invitation = a small invitation card (an invitation card would be *une carte d'invitation*)

Passer une commande chez le traiteur = to place an order with the caterer

Commander le gâteau chez le pâtissier/à la pâtisserie
= to order the cake at the pastry shop

Décorer la maison, la table... = to decorate the house, the table...

Organiser une surprise = to organize a surprise

Allumer les bougies = to light the candles

Souffler les bougies = to blow out the candles

Faire un vœu = to make a wish

