

Social English: The Cocktail Party Phrase List

The following phrase list might be useful if you find yourself at a cocktail party or in a similar social situation.

1. Greetings

Good evening!
Do come in! (*If you are the host*)
Please come in! (*If you are the host*)

2. Introductions

I don't believe we've met. My name's (*If you have to introduce yourself*)
I'd like you to meet.....
Have you met.....?
How do you do.
Pleased to meet you.

No, I haven't had the pleasure
How do you do.
Pleased to meet you too.

3. Conversation

Opening remarks when you would like to join a conversation:

Excuse me.
Forgive me, but I couldn't help overhearing...
Haven't I met you somewhere before?

Sounding interested in an on-going conversation:

I see.
Really! / Not really!
How nice! / How awful!
That was lucky / That was unfortunate.

4. Showing hospitality

Would you care for a?
Would you like a?
How about a?

Not just now thanks.
Yes, please.

5. Parting remarks

Guest	Host
It's been a lovely evening.	Oh, must you go?
We've enjoyed ourselves enormously.	We've enjoyed having you.
We've had a wonderful time.	You don't have to go now, do you?
Thank you for a lovely evening.	It was nice of you to come.