

# The Invitation

by Nancy Callan

James and Ken were long time coworkers. They often went out for fairly standard fare at a local restaurant for lunch. This time they decided to ask their new coworker Bo to join them. Bo was a new immigrant. Being a newcomer in the workplace, he was happy to be invited along.

Bo asked them if they had ever tried food from his home country. The men admitted they never had. Bo suggested they go to a restaurant where he could introduce them to some specialties from his native cuisine. James and Ken thought it sounded intriguing, so they agreed. Bo chose the most traditional dishes and both men thought they were delicious. Bo was happy the lunch had been such a success.

When the bill came, Bo reached for it immediately and said, "I'll get this." James smiled warmly and said, "Oh, no, let's just go dutch." Bo answered, "Don't worry about it. It's my treat." Ken said awkwardly, "If anyone should pay, it's us. We are the ones who invited you." Bo quickly replied, "No, really, I insist. It's on me." James and Ken thanked Bo politely, but felt very uncomfortable. Bo was surprised that James and Ken let him pay so easily.

## Questions About The Invitation

1. Who issued the lunch invitation?

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2. What kind of food do James and Ken normally go out for?

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3. Why was Bo so happy to be invited along?

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4. What kind of food did Bo order?

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5. How did James and Ken feel about the food Bo ordered?

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6. Who thought that everyone should pay an equal share?

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7. Who did Ken really think should have paid?

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8. How many times did James try to pay?

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9. How many times did Ken try to pay?

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## Questions About The Invitation (continued)

10. How many times did Bo try to pay?

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11. How did Bo feel when James and Ken let him pay? Why?

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12. How did James and Ken feel when Bo paid?

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13. Why did James and Ken let Bo pay?

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14. Where do you think Bo is probably from?

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15. Who do you think normally pays the bill between coworkers North America?

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16. Who do you think normally pays the bill when between coworkers in Bo's home country?

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17. Who do you think should pay when coworkers go to lunch together?

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