



Diplomatic protocol

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Lecture 7. Parties



Eng. party, reception, Fr. reception

- The most important type of social gathering that gathers a group of people around a common table.
- Usually used to celebrate important event in a particularly valued group or with relatives, acquaintances and friends.
- This form of meeting is called a social event (fr. événement convivial).
- Parties are an opportunity to make contacts and meet new people, to have interesting conversations - not only on business and not only on professional topics - and food goes perfectly with this.

- Receptions should primarily express the hospitality shown to those invited and facilitate less formal contacts between people who have only been friends on a professional basis so far.
- The more casual nature of meetings held at parties does not mean that they dispense with the observance of good manners.





Reception

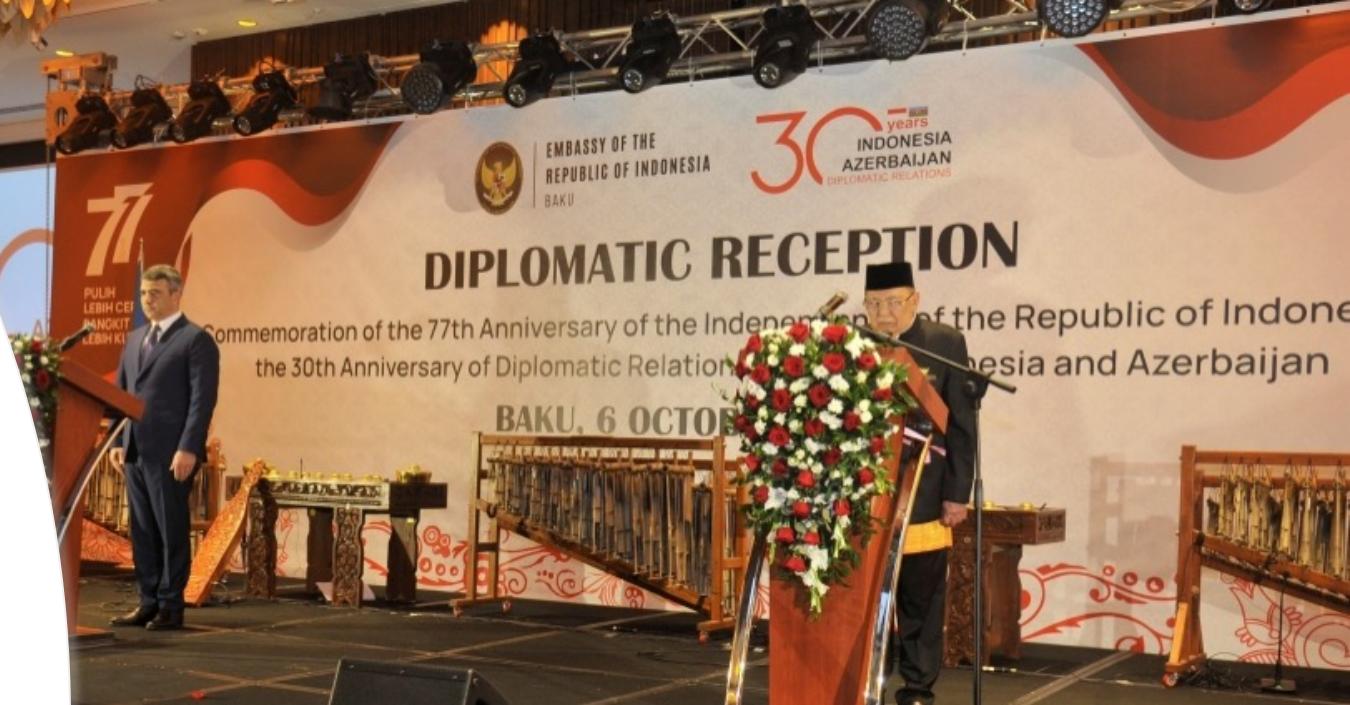
- standing parties, usually referred to as a cocktail or a glass of wine;
 - buffet party;
 - sit-down parties.

Reception

- working (business function, French *d'affaires*);
- official (formal function, French *officielle*);
- social (social function, French *conviviale*).

As far as the importance of the ceremony and the rank of those invited, standing reception might be a mistake if its main participant is a minister, a bishop or an outstanding scholar.

The more formal ones take place in the evening,



- A party held around midday / afternoon is referred to in the language of diplomatic protocol as lunch, and an evening party – dinner.
- Working lunch should last approximately one and a half hours, official lunch can be extended to two hours, and dinner can take up to two and a half hours.
- On days off from work, the Anglo-Saxon custom proposes a formula combining a late breakfast (breakfast) and an early lunch, called brunch in the USA, elevenses in Great Britain, and morning tea in Australia and New Zealand.
- However official receptions are not usually organized on Saturdays and Sundays (unless they are related to celebrations on that day).



Type of receptions





Glass of wine

- A glass of wine (French, vin d'honneur) is not literally a party.
- It is rather a short social accent closing the official ceremony, usually lasting max. 30. min.
- At work, it can be a form of celebrating a name day, promotion or other important event in personal life.

Coctail

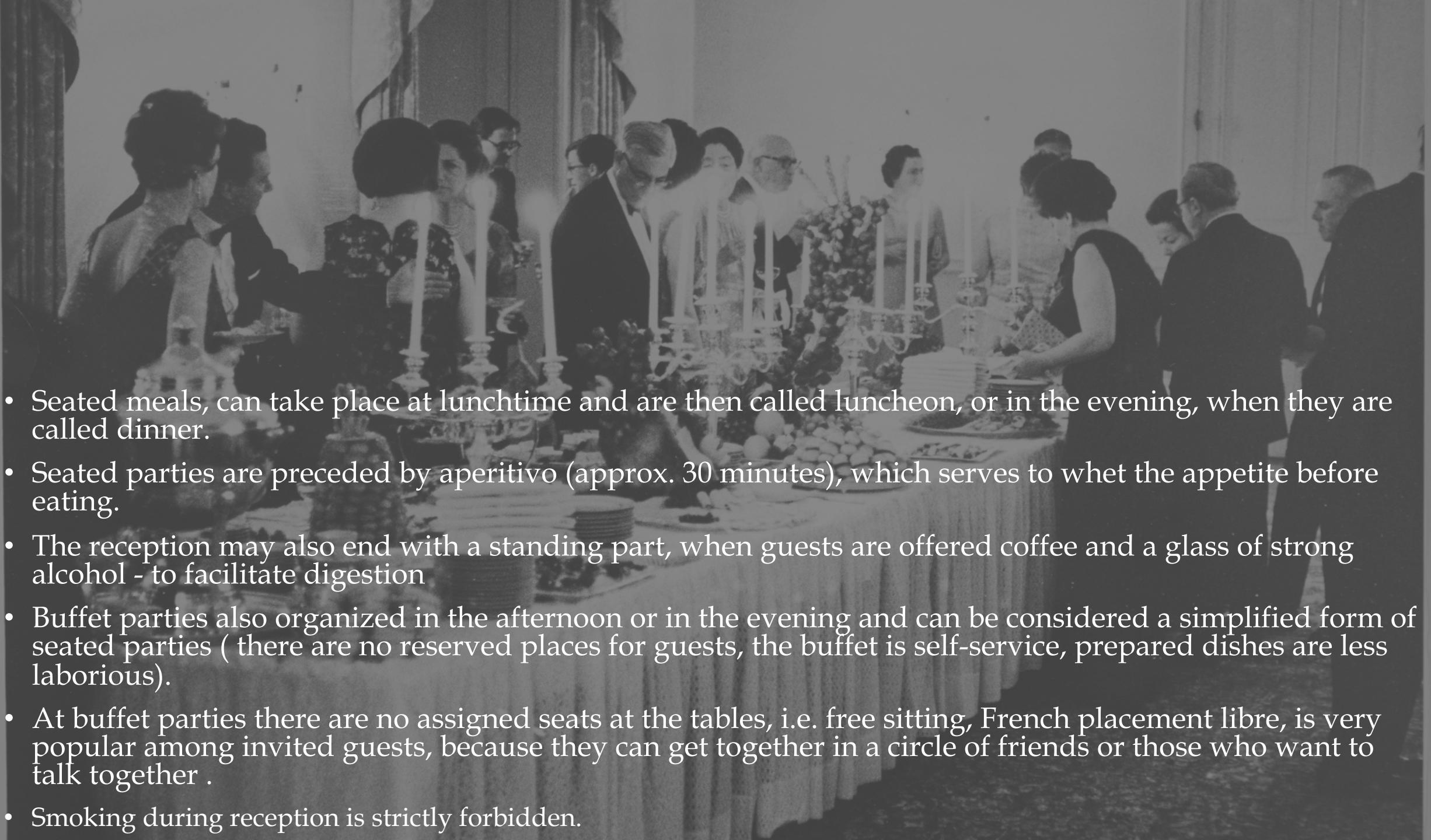
- The **cocktail party** was the original, in Victorian England, a standing gathering of men over a glass of alcohol, held after dark, 6.00 p.m.
 - Cocktail is arranged inside the house and outside as a garden party.
 - It is recommended to stay on the cocktail for at least 20-30 minutes, while it last up to 2 hr.



- It is possible to leave cocktail at any time, while it is not possible to leave seated party before its end.
- To take French leave (in English language) - advantage of a cocktail party, leaving without saying goodbye to the hosts...

... but it comes from French language: *filer à l'anglaise* (run away Enlish style).



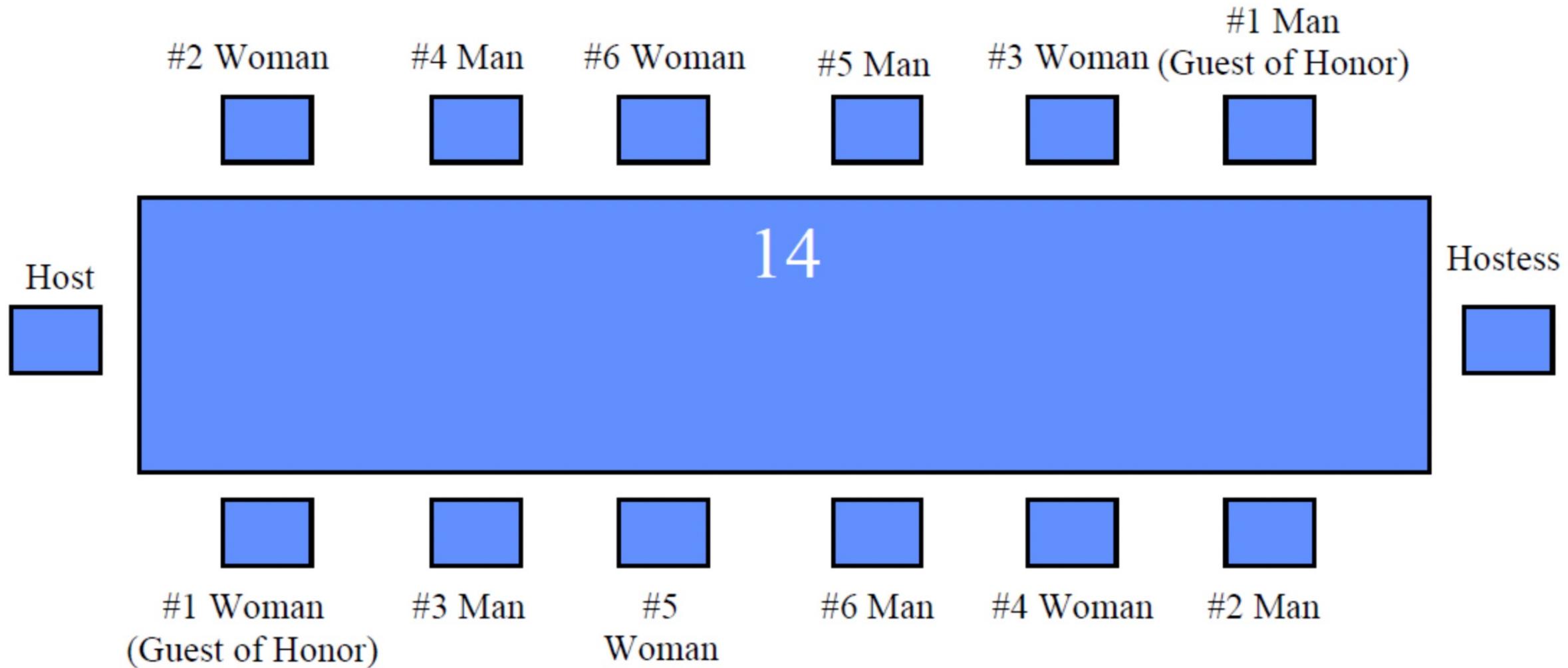


- Seated meals, can take place at lunchtime and are then called luncheon, or in the evening, when they are called dinner.
- Seated parties are preceded by aperitivo (approx. 30 minutes), which serves to whet the appetite before eating.
- The reception may also end with a standing part, when guests are offered coffee and a glass of strong alcohol - to facilitate digestion
- Buffet parties also organized in the afternoon or in the evening and can be considered a simplified form of seated parties (there are no reserved places for guests, the buffet is self-service, prepared dishes are less laborious).
- At buffet parties there are no assigned seats at the tables, i.e. free sitting, French placement libre, is very popular among invited guests, because they can get together in a circle of friends or those who want to talk together .
- Smoking during reception is strictly forbidden.

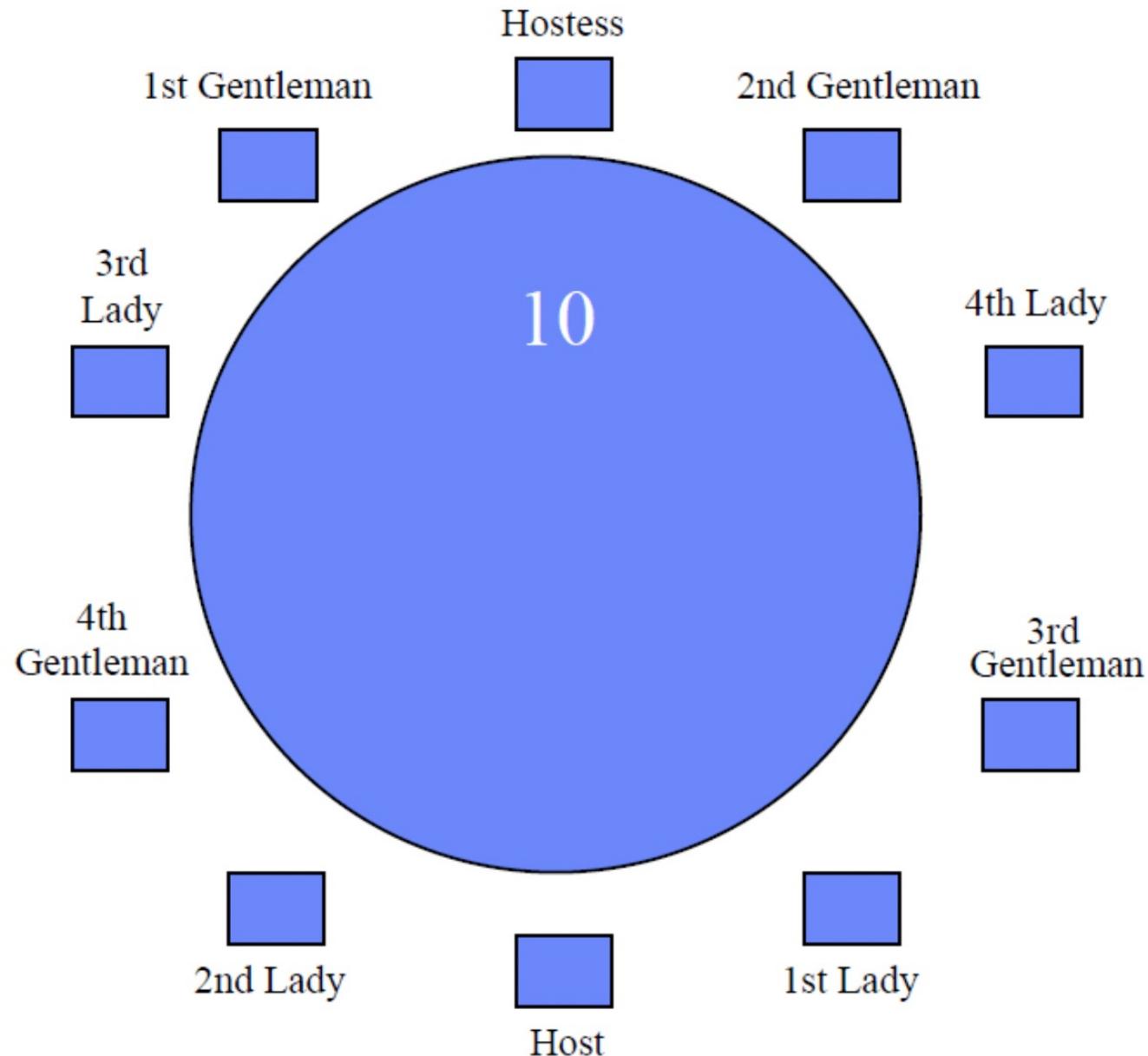
Type of tables



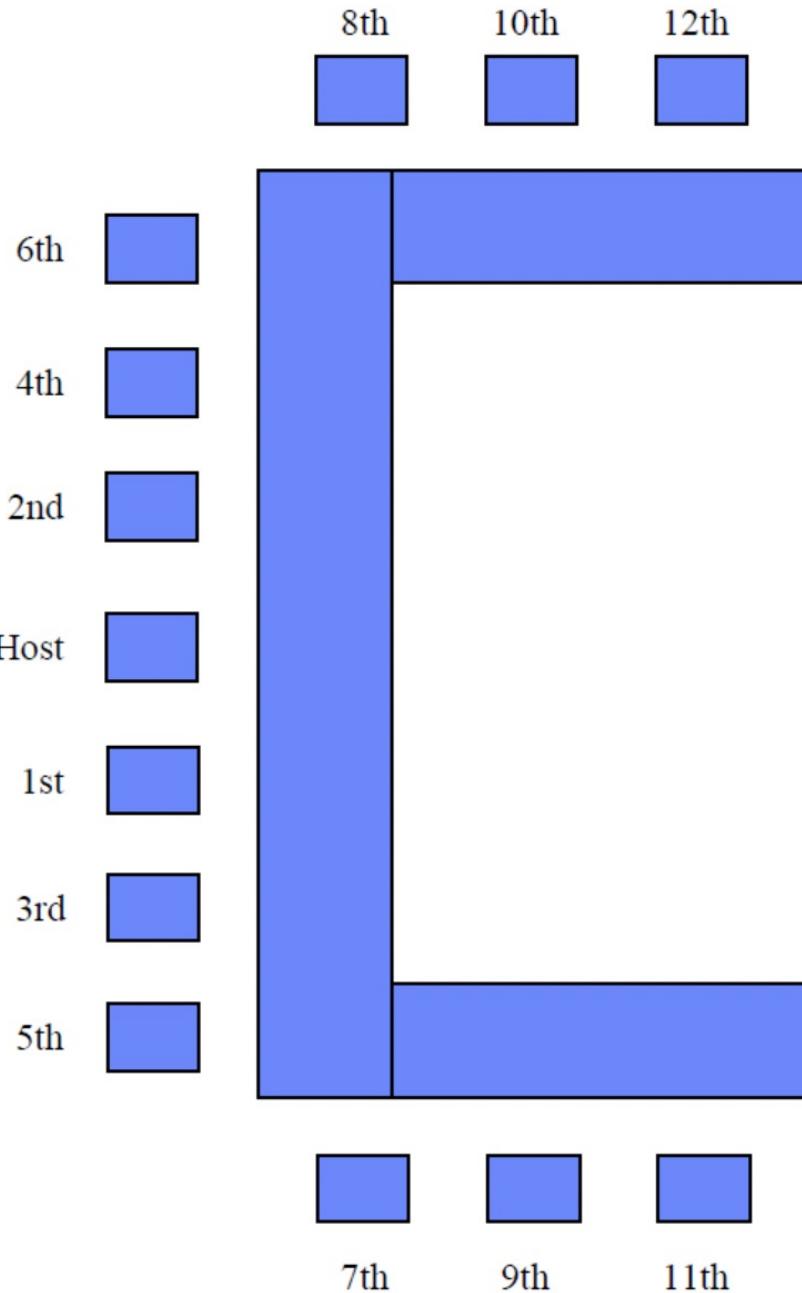
Mixed Seating for Fourteen - Host and Hostess at Ends of Table



Circular Table for Ten - Five Ladies, Five Gentlemen



U-Shaped Table Seating



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- Seating arrangement is the most difficult task of Diplomatic Protocol.
 - Preserving the order of precedence of the invited guests, mix them up, taking into account interests and animosities.

A photograph of a formal state dinner. In the foreground, Queen Elizabeth II is seated at the head of the table, wearing her diamond State Crown and a white sequined dress. To her left, Prince Charles is seated in a military uniform. The table is set with gold cutlery, white plates, and glasses. Large, colorful floral arrangements in shades of yellow, orange, and red are placed on the table. Other guests are visible in the background, including a man in a traditional white Saudi headdress. The setting is a grand hall with dark wood paneling.

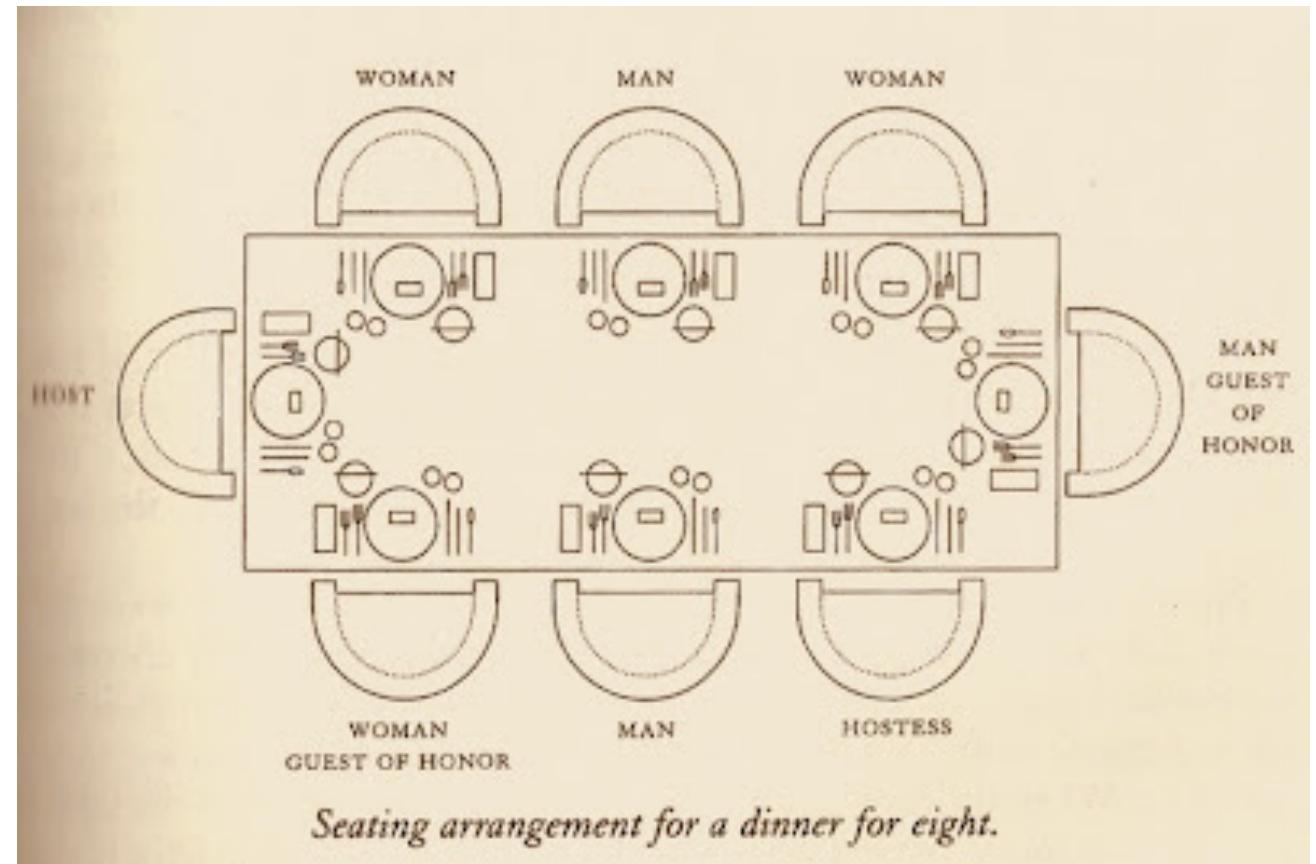
Seating at the table is governed by three rules:

- right-hand primacy,
- precedence,
- alternation.

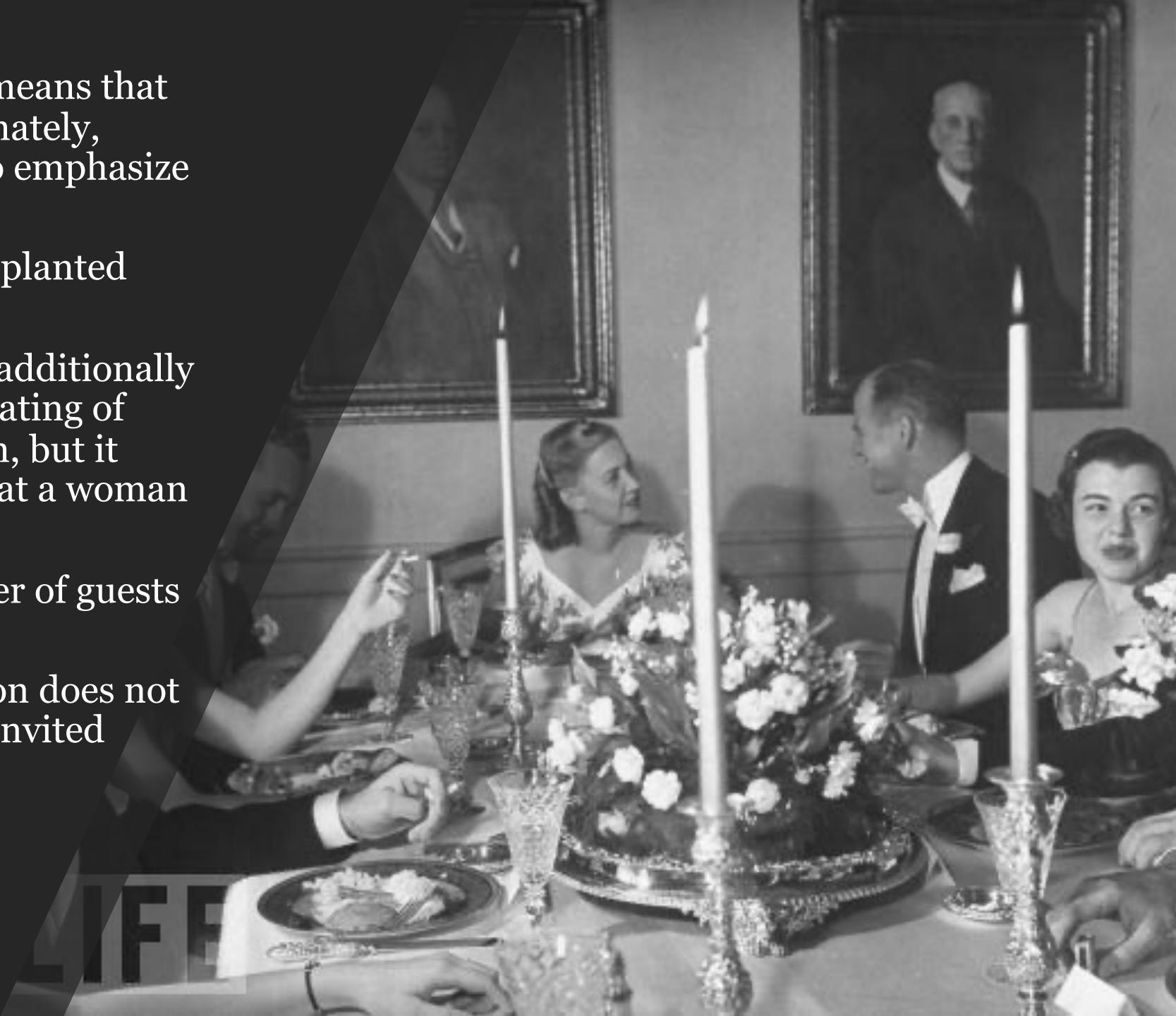
- **Right-hand primacy** is an old and universal custom of assigning the more honorable place to the right.
- However almost all US presidents of the last half-century were left-handed and instinctively addressed those sitting on the left first, sometimes neglecting those sitting on the right, and therefore considered more important.



- The principle of precedence determines the order of taking places from the most important guest to the least important.
- The most important guest sits closest to the hostess, on her right hand, or opposite the host.



- The **principle of alternation** means that women and men are seated alternately, which is always done at parties to emphasize their sociable nature.
- Married couples should never be planted next to each other.
- The principle of alternation may additionally take into account the alternate seating of foreigners and fellow countrymen, but it should always be remembered that a woman must have men on both sides.
- Necessary element: even number of guests - half women, half men.
- The principle of gender alternation does not apply to work parties, which are invited without spouses.



Thank you for your attention!





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