

1.2 million people accept birthday party invitation

9th December, 2016



A father in Mexico got a surprise after he posted an invitation to his daughter's 15th birthday party on Facebook. He thought the invite was just going to his family, friends and neighbours.

Instead, the post went viral and 1.2 million people have said they would attend the party. Crescencio Ibarra said he would not turn away anyone who came to the party for his daughter Rubi. He said everyone was invited. Mr Ibarra said in a TV interview that he had no idea why his post became so popular and why more than a million people accepted his invitation. He said: "We wanted to invite the people from the area, that's all." So many people might attend the party that the local police will be out in force.

A 15th birthday is an important occasion in a girl's life in Mexico. It is seen as the time when she comes of age. The girl has a special party called a *quinceañera*. This is a traditional event across much of Latin American. The party usually has lots of guests and the girl wears a beautiful dress, a tiara and make-up. At Rubi's party, there will be three different bands to play music and a horse race in which the winner will get \$490. There are many memes (joke pictures) of Mr Ibarra's post on social media. He said Rubi's favourite meme shows Donald Trump and Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto agreeing to allow undocumented Mexican migrants in the USA to return to Mexico for Rubi's party.

Sources: bbc.com / q13fox.com / kansascity.com

Writing

A birthday party at home is better than a party in the town/city. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

surprise / birthday / party / invite / attend / interview / popular / area / local / police / important / occasion / special / traditional / horse race / joke / meme / migrants

True / False

- a) A father sent one million birthday party invitations. T / F
- b) The father did not want his neighbours at the birthday party. T / F
- c) The father said he would turn some people away from the party. T / F
- d) There will be a lot of police officers at the party. T / F
- e) The fifteenth birthday is important for a girl in Mexico. T / F
- f) The father said there would be three bands and a race horse at the party. T / F
- g) Social media was full of jokes about the father's party invitation. T / F
- h) Donald Trump said migrants in the USA could go to the birthday party. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. thought | a. cosmetics |
| 2. attend | b. refuse |
| 3. accepted | c. event |
| 4. turn away | d. said yes to |
| 5. in force | e. go back |
| 6. occasion | f. believed |
| 7. traditional | g. let |
| 8. make-up | h. customary |
| 9. allow | i. be at |
| 10. return | j. in great numbers |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What kind of parties do you like?
- b) What was the best birthday party you ever had?
- c) What do you think about what you read?
- d) What would a million people do at a party?
- e) What could go wrong at the party?
- f) What would Rubi do with a million presents?
- g) What's the maximum number of people that should attend a party?
- h) What kind of birthday party would you really like?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. He thought the invite was just | a. away anyone who came |
| 2. he would not turn | b. and make-up |
| 3. he had no idea | c. out in force |
| 4. We wanted to invite the | d. much of Latin America |
| 5. the local police will be | e. going to his family |
| 6. an important occasion | f. in the USA |
| 7. It is seen as the time when she | g. people from the area |
| 8. a traditional event across | h. comes of age |
| 9. a tiara | i. why |
| 10. migrants | j. in a girl's life |

Discussion – Student B

- Is it OK for old people to have birthday parties?
- What's the best birthday present for a 15-year-old girl?
- Are there any bad things about birthday parties?
- What activities are good for a birthday party?
- Is a birthday party better at home or in the city?
- Who would you like to invite to your next party?
- What do you think of the meme mentioned in the article?
- What questions would you like to ask Mr Ibarra?

Spelling

- A father in Mexico got a preissur
- family, friends and gnohrebuiss (UK) / rsbonheig (USA)
- his post became so oaruplp
- a million people captcdee
- many people might atetdn the party
- police will be out in rceof
- an important soocnia
- a aliinotadtr event
- many eemsm (joke pictures)
- alcois media
- President Enrique Pena Nieto aggeienr
- gintmsar in the USA

Answers – Synonym Match

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. f | 2. i | 3. d | 4. b | 5. j |
| 6. c | 7. h | 8. a | 9. g | 10. e |

Role Play

Role A – Birthday Parties

You think birthday parties are the best events. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their events aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): weddings, sports finals or graduations.

Role B – Weddings

You think weddings are the best events. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their events aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): birthday parties, sports finals or graduations.

Role C – Sports Finals

You think sports finals are the best events. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their events aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): weddings, birthday parties or graduations.

Role D – Graduations

You think graduations are the best events. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their events aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): weddings, sports finals or birthday parties.

Speaking – Events

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| • religious holidays | • birthday parties |
| • sports finals | • graduations |
| • wedding anniversaries | • weddings |
| • newborn baby celebrations | • national days |

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | F | b | F | c | F | d | T | e | T | f | T | g | T | h | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.