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Invited guests don't pay their own way

Jay Remer, Financial Post
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Dear Etiquette Guy: I am organizing a professional networking meeting for 10 people followed by drinks and dinner. My firm is hosting the meeting but will not cover expenses for the drinks and dinner. Earlier this year I split a six-person event with another participant, but I do not want to pay for others again. So my question is: What phraseology can I use in an e-mail to inform people beforehand that they will be responsible for their expenses? Upfront Jane

Dear U. J.: Just as with any party, if the host is not paying the expenses, the activity for which the host is not paying cannot be included on the invitation. With this small of a group, word of mouth is the best way to convey the drink and dinner. People should not be obliged to attend the dinner and drinks afterwards, either. This situation is in poor form and whoever came up with this idea should be assigned other tasks, as hosting is not a strong suit for them. - Jay Remer is the Etiquette Guy. He is trained and certified by the Protocol School of Washington as a consultant for corporate etiquette and international protocol. He lives in St. Andrews, N. B. E-mail your etiquette questions to jay@etiquetteguy.com and visit his Web site at www.etiquetteguy.com.

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