



# COCKTAILS AND BANGLES



Wonder what we're hinting at here? Well, the colorful 1980s. And a birthday party with a difference. If a family member or a friend who was born in that decade is having a birthday, arrange a party that brings back the memories, the atmosphere and the fun of 1980s.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION:

### BEFORE THE PARTY

For starters, let's have a short trip down the memory lane and remember what the world was like the decade your family member/friend was born. What were the hottest songs and films back then? What clothes and accessories did everyone wear? What about the most popular foods, drinks and home décor elements? Bring those components to the party and re-create the atmosphere of that decade. The possibilities here are endless: you can play the 1980s songs, serve foods and drinks that used to be children (and not only) favorites, decorate your interior with elements that bring back the flavor of that decade, give your guests some of those once trendy accessories to wear during the party and so on. Whatever your choice, these elements are sure to trigger conversation and encourage the guests to share childhood stories.



For some, carnations remind of 80s.

### Ideas for Music:

- Pop and synth pop artists, such as Michael Jackson, Madonna, Whitney Houston, Prince, Phil Collins, Tina Turner, Cyndi Lauper, "Depeche Mode", "OMD", "A-ha", "Erasure", "London Boys", "Modern Talking", "Bananarama" ...the list goes on and on.
- The famous singers-songwriters Bruce Springsteen, Tom Petty, Kate Bush, Suzanne Vega, Tracy Chapman etc.
- Hip hop artists, such as "Beastie Boys", "Public Enemy", "Run D. M. C.", "De La Soul", DJ Jazzy Jeff & The Fresh Prince, LL Cool J, Ice-T and others.

- The rock and heavy/glam metal bands, including “Guns N’ Roses”, “Metallica”, “Iron Maiden”, “Bon Jovi”, “Def Leppard”, “Poison” and “Europe”.
- House and techno music.
- Country music artists, for example, Kenny Rogers, Ronnie Milsap, T. G. Sheppard, Dolly Parton, Anne Murray, Kathy Mattea, Keith Whitley, “Alabama”, “The Oak Ridge Boys” and so on.

### Cocktail Ideas:

- Long Island Ice Tea
- Sex on the Beach
- Daiquiri
- Manhattan
- Martini
- Blue Lagoon
- Hurricane
- Kir Royale

## AT THE PARTY

### Welcoming of the Guests (6.00 pm – 6.30 pm)

Upon arrival, the guests are welcomed with a cocktail that brings back the flavor of 1980s. Then, each guest is given or is allowed to pick a 1980s accessory to wear during the party. These might include scarves, ties, leg warmers or headbands, all of them in bright, bold colors. Also, 1980s are associated with Madonna-inspired large crucifix necklaces or brassieres (as seen in the video of the hit song “Like a Virgin”), Tom-Cruise inspired aviator sunglasses (remember “Top Gun”?), multicolored Swatch watches, slap bracelets, hefty bangles, etc. Another option would be the ultimate element of the 1980s style – the unforgettable shoulder pads. As for the background music, play some good old 1980s songs.



For some, carnations remind of 80s.



A polka dot 80s tie



Famous haircuts and shoulder padded dresses of the 80s

## **Dinner** (6.30 pm – 7.30 pm)

Once all the guests have arrived, they are invited to a dinner that includes some or consists of popular 1980s finger foods and dishes. These will differ from country to country and from region to region, but here are a few suggestions: Devilled Eggs, Pate, Prawn Cocktail, Canapés, Sushi and everything with a toothpick through it, for example, gherkins, cheese cubes and meat balls; you could also serve Quiche, Blackened Cajun Seafood, Lasagne, Cheese Fondue, Steak Diane or Beef Wellington. After everyone has had enough time to once again savor the taste of childhood favorites, we suggest interrupting the dinner and having some fun – and putting the dessert off until later.

## **Games** (7.30 pm – 9.30 pm)

### **Fishing for Compliments?**

A birthday party is just the right time and place to pay some compliments to the person who is having it because at other times we might be too busy, too shy or too something else. To prepare for the game, you will need some fruit that are not too soft, such as clementines or apples, and lots of toothpicks – to continue the 1980s fad of putting them through everything that's edible. Each guest is given a fruit and some toothpicks. The game goes on like this: everyone attending the party takes turns to pay the person who is having this birthday party a compliment or to say something nice and positive about him/her. The tricky part is that the time is extremely limited: they have only 5 seconds to come up with something heartwarming and nice. The compliments may be limited to one word or expressed using a longer phrase. If the player does everything correctly and in time, he/she gets a point, i.e. sticks a toothbrush into the fruit. If the player can't think of anything or repeats something that has already been said, he/she drops out of the game. The fast pace is what makes this game exciting, so do your best to keep it up. The last person to stay in the game is the winner and is awarded a small prize in the style of 1980s, for example, a soft drink ("Capri Sun") or a snack ("Cool Ranch Doritos") that would bring back childhood memories.

### **Charades**

To play this game, you will need to divide everyone attending the party into two teams. One way to do this is by using two different kinds of sweets (could be a brand dating back to the 1980s): put them into a paper bag and ask everyone to pick one without looking; the kind of sweet they have determines which team they belong to.

One team (let's call them Bangles) thinks of a word. It must be a noun, and it can be either something as easy as "rice" or something really complicated, for example, "psychology". One representative from the other team (let's call them Cocktails) approaches the Bangles team. He or she is told the word and has to mime this word to his/her team so that they can guess it. The players are not allowed to use words or sounds. Set a time limit on that, up to 3 minutes if you are going to use complicated words. Then the Cocktails team thinks of a word, and the game goes on until one team has 10, 15 or any other number of points you agree on. Another version of this game is to draw the word instead of miming it. It is not as complicated as it might sound and works even for those people who are not good at drawing. If you wish, the winning team might be awarded small prizes.

### **Walking in Schwarzenegger's Shoes**

1980s saw the rise of many talented entertainers and athletes as well as prominent statesmen and scientists. Suggest the guests playing a game that allows them to walk in those people's shoes for a while. To prepare for the game, make cards (in bold colors, we are talking about 1980s here) and write a name of a famous person on each one. Consider who your guests might be interested in. Entertainers? You have Michael J. Fox, Eddie Murphy, Whoopi Goldberg, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bill Cosby, Meryl Streep, Prince, Madonna...the list goes on and on. Are your guests into sports? Then include Boris Becker, Carl Lewis, Larry Bird, Michel Platini or other immensely talented athletes. Statesmen? Write Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher or Mikhail Gorbachev. Make sure that you also have some pins. At the party, use the pins to attach the cards to the clothes of your guests (on the back). They are not allowed to see who they are, but they can see other people's cards. To play the game, the guests mingle and have small talk in such a way as if they were talking to that famous person. If somebody is talking to 'Michael J. Fox', the small talk must include appropriate topics and hints, so that the person wearing that card could find out who he is. The game goes on until everyone finds out what famous person he/she was.



## What's for Dessert? (9.30 pm – 10 pm)

The dinner has been interrupted to have fun, and now it's about time to have some dessert. Bring in the cake (with candles or cake fountain sparklers), and to stick to the topic of the evening, it would be really nice to have the kind of cake that would remind everyone of family celebrations they used to have as children. Again, the choice of cakes will differ from country to country, but here are a few ideas: Devil's Food Cake, Mississippi Mud Pie, Tiramisu, Streusel Bundt Cake, Pineapple Upside Down Cake or Chocolate Torte.

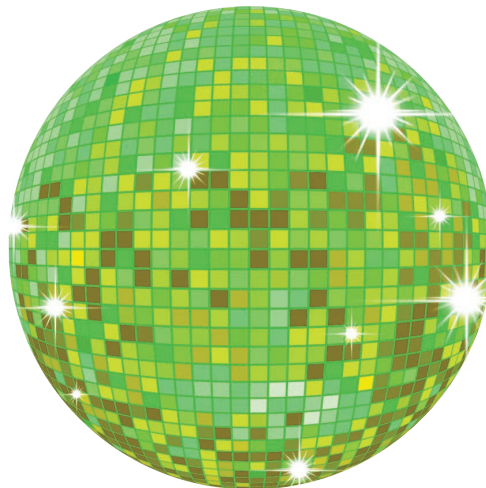


## I Wish... (10.00 pm – 10.15 pm)

Birthday parties are about wishes, and the more the better. Give each guest a slip of paper, something to write with and a balloon. Prepare balloons in many bright colors to make them look beautiful and 1980ish. Allow everyone some time to think and write something nice they would like wish the person who is having this birthday party. The hero/heroine of the evening can write what he/she wishes for. Then the slip of paper is placed inside the balloon and the balloon is blown. When everyone is ready, go outside, pause and release the balloons into air, all at the same time. If you are having a party in winter time, the balloons can be replaced with sky lanterns, and the slips of paper containing wishes can be attached to them. Whatever you choose, that will make for a spectacular ending to a really good evening with family and friends.

## Disco of the 80s (10.15 pm - ...)

If you wish, the party might continue with a disco where everyone gets a chance to dance to the good old songs of 1980s (or sing the songs, if you and your guests are into karaoke). Once the party is over and the guests are leaving, give them the accessories they have been wearing all night long to take home as gifts to remember the party.



**We wish you a stunning party!**