

## Curious Questions 4 –Reservation/Appointment

### Transcript

Robin: Hello everyone! This is Robin

Maura: And Maura

Robin: with the Culips Curious Questions podcast where we answer your English language questions.

Maura: Little things come up all the time that confuse us when we're learning another language. Do you have a question that you have been dying to ask?

Robin: Is there a question burning inside you?

Maura: Please ask us! You can email your questions to [questions@culips.com](mailto:questions@culips.com) or go to our website, Culips, C-U-L-I-P-S.com for more information.

Robin: The question we have today from Guiseppe from Italy is fairly straightforward.

*What is the difference between “**appointment**” and “**reservation**”?*

Robin: These are close because both **appointment** and **reservation** involve future plans, but they are used in entirely different ways.

Maura: An **appointment** is a future meeting previously arranged. We make **appointments** most commonly with doctors. In fact, they are called doctor's **appointments**. It is a scheduled time agreed upon between you and the doctor.

Robin: For example, I have a doctor's **appointment** next Thursday at 11:30 in the morning. Or, I have a tooth ache so I need to make an **appointment** with my dentist. I wish I could go today but they won't see me without an **appointment**.

Maura: Any kind of meeting that you schedule with a professional to do work for you is generally referred to as an **appointment**.

Robin: Other examples: an **appointment** with a lawyer, an **appointment** with a physiotherapist. Just like we have **appointments** with professionals, the professionals have **appointments** with us, their clients. A doctor could say, I have 5 **appointments** this afternoon. A lawyer, similarly, could say, I have an

**appointment** with a client tomorrow morning.

Maura: A **reservation** on the other hand is used more for restaurants or hotels, things not people. **To reserve** is to make arrangements to have or obtain something in the future.

Like I said, you cannot reserve a person. You can **reserve** a table at a restaurant or a room at a hotel or a seat on a train. You can **reserve** space.

For example, last night they made **reservations** at his favorite restaurant for tomorrow night at 7:30.

What else?

Robin: You can **reserve** a book at the library or a ticket for a show.

Maura: **To reserve** can mean to keep something back, withhold it. So when you **reserve** something, the other person withholds the item or place for you.

Robin: So even as both **appointment** and **reservation** involve a future plan, they are quite different. And although they are different, I also wanted to point out that they are both used with the **make** and not **do**. We **make** a **reservation** and we **make** an **appointment**. You can use **reserve** as a verb, like, "I **reserved** a table."

Maura: And though we have the verb **appoint**, we do not use it to talk about making appointments. We always say **to make an appointment**.

Robin: Remember also that both of these are rather formal terms. I mean that if I am meeting with a friend I would not use these terms. These are both formal arrangements.

Maura: To check your understanding of this podcast, you can quiz yourself or read the transcripts at lipservice at Culips.com.

Robin: I hope this time we have answered a question that helps you improve your English. I also hope if you didn't ask the question, you also found it useful.

Maura: Please keep your questions coming. We are always happy to answer them.

See you next time.

Robin: Good bye

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## Detailed Explanations

### Appointment

This is a mutual (both sides) agreement to meet at a set time and place. Like I said in this episode, it is usually done in a professional manner.

**Appointments** can be made with any kind of doctors and lawyers especially, and for any other professional meetings.

### To appoint

I wouldn't say that I have an **appointment** to meet my mother. If someone did say that, it would probably mean that the person is not close with their mother and this was a formal kind of meeting.

There are other meanings for the word **appointment**. First of all, to appoint is a verb. To appoint someone is to designate (sorry I had to use another new word!). A more simple explanation could be, to choose someone to be in a certain position.

I will give you an example. In a classroom the teacher has to leave. The teacher then chooses someone to be in charge, or the leader of the class, while she is gone. So the teacher appoints someone to be the leader of the class.

One more example: A position at a company is empty because someone recently left their job. So the boss appoints someone to the empty position. The boss decides who will be in the empty position.

So, we can use **appointments** to talk about someone being appointed. There are a lot of **appointments** in politics. Prime Ministers and presidents are always appointing people to new positions.

### Other ways to say appointment

Here is a little list of other ways to say **appointment**, which are generally more casual:

meeting (with lawyer) – “I have a meeting with my lawyer.” Or “I am meeting with my lawyer.”

To see – “I am seeing a doctor tomorrow.” Or “I will see my lawyer on Friday.”

### Reservations

We use **reservations** most famously to talk about calling ahead to have a table at a restaurant when you arrived at an arranged time. So, we can imagine that they are holding, or even holding back, this place for us.

We also have a **reserve** (a noun), or more commonly, **reserves**. It means something that is being kept or stored for use in the future. Do you see the connection?

An example of **reserves** would be food, food you put away to eat later. **Reserves** can also be used to talk about money that is not for use at this moment, but in the future. We can also use the word **reserves** to talk about military. In this case, these people are there for the future, when we will need them.

### Reserved

If you made **reservations** at a restaurant, we can say, "I **reserved** a table." But we can also use **reserved** as an adjective for a person. And it is connected to the other definitions, in that it is holding something back. So, a **reserved** person is someone who holds back, doesn't show their true personality or opinions.

Example: "I never know how he feels. He is a very **reserved** person."

### Missing appointments, Forgetting reservations

In some cases, if you miss an **appointment** with a professional you will have to pay for at least part of it anyway. You can cancel at least 24 hours before the **appointment** without paying.

Usually if you forget a **reservation** at a restaurant, you will not have to pay.

If you **reserve** a book at the library and do not come to get it, then you will have to pay a small fine. A fine is an amount of money that we pay when we have done something illegal or wrong. We usually have to pay a fine when we have cost the company money. We also have to pay a fine to the library when we do not return the book when we should, the due date.

When someone is speeding in their car and the police catch them, they will also have to pay a fine. A fine for speeding is usually a lot bigger than a fine for a late library book.

**Quiz** (see the answers at the bottom of this lipservice)**1. If I am going to visit a doctor, which word would I use?**

- a) reservation
- b) appointment
- c) meeting
- d) nurse

**2. A reservation is**

- a) a meeting
- b) a professional party
- c) when something is withheld for you
- d) a meal

**3. An appointment is**

- a) a professional party
- b) an arranged professional meeting
- c) when something is withheld for you
- d) not previously arranged

**4. Reservations are often used with**

- a) restaurants and stores
- b) restaurants and hotels
- c) hotels and stores
- d) hotels and malls

**5. I want to have a book from the library in the near future, so I make**

- a) a reservation
- b) an appointment

**6. If I want to see a lawyer to discuss my case, I make**

- a) a reservation
- b) an appointment

**Answers for the Quiz**

1-b    2-a    3-b    4-a    5-a    6-a