

R.S.V.P.

répondez s'il vous plait

RSVP is a term commonly used but it seems rarely understood. It stems from French origination, as an abbreviation for *répondez s'il vous plait* which basically means **Please Respond**. What that translates to, is when an invitation is forwarded to you with an RSVP request, it means please reply with either your attendance or non-attendance.

Whether it is due to unawareness of this concept or mere laziness, most RSVP requests are met with complete silence, leaving the host unaware of how to cater for his function.

The host now faces a major dilemma. Should I order food for a hundred people or for a thousand people? If I order less, it will be embarrassing if the food runs out. If I order extra, food will be wasted and much needed funds which could have been utilised beneficially will be squandered.

Ignoring an RSVP and simply pitching up an event is unethical and hardly befitting Islamic conduct. Islam emphasises the consideration of others and condemns causing distress. So the next time you receive an RSVP invite, put yourself in the host's shoes and let your Islamic conduct shine through.



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