MODERN MANNERS

VOCABULARY phone language

Complete the sentences.

1 You mustn't use your phone in a quiet zone.
2 When you finish a phone call, you h_____ u_____.
3 If someone doesn't answer their phone, you can leave a m_____ on their v_____.
4 If you're in a meeting, you can put your phone on s_____ or v_____ mode.
5 If someone's phone is off, you can c_____ b_____ later.
6 The sound your mobile makes when someone calls you is a r_____.
7 If you want to text your friends more cheaply, you can use in_____ m_____.
8 When you call someone, you have to d_____ their number by pressing some keys.
9 If someone is already talking on their mobile when you call, the line is b_____ or en_____.
10 You can protect the display of your mobile or computer with a sc_____.

Read the article again and choose the right answer.

1 According to the article...
   a the idea of 'Ladies first' started in the Middle ages.
   b the idea of 'Ladies first' is a new idea.
   c it's not known when the idea of 'Ladies first' started.
2 In the past...
   a men didn't know how to behave towards women.
   b 'Ladies first' was very polite.
   c it didn't matter if men broke the rules.
3 Nowadays, men...
   a aren't sure how to behave towards women.
   b behave in the same way towards women.
   c have new rules to follow.
4 According to the article, men should...
   a not think about what women want.
   b follow the rules of 'Ladies first'.
   c not follow the rules of 'Ladies first'.
5 According to the article, women...
   a always want expensive things.
   b don't like it when men cook.
   c like a meal at home or in a restaurant.

Find the highlighted words or phrases in the text to match the definitions.

1 not right for a particular situation
   inappropriate
2 an action that shows other people how you feel
   _____
3 understand the value of something
   _____
4 an idea
   _____
5 upset somebody
   _____
6 thought they were better than
   _____

READING

Read the article once and tick (✓) the best summary.

1 How men should behave towards women in the 21st century. ☐
2 How men behaved towards women in the past. ☐
3 The difference between men's and women's manners. ☐

first?

Nobody knows how long people have been using the words 'Ladies First', nor is anyone sure where the concept came from. However, neither of these facts matter today. The important question is whether the tradition is still relevant, and if men should continue respecting it.

In the past, there was a strict set of rules concerning men's behaviour towards women – or rather 'ladies' as they were called then. Men wearing hats used to take them off in the presence of women. They used to stand up whenever a woman entered or left a room, and they did the same at a dining table. Men used to hold a door for a woman to allow her to go through first. They always used to pay for meals – but we'll come back to that one later. All of these customs were considered good manners, and people looked down on men who did not conform.

In fact, this set of rules actually made things easier for men. If they broke a rule, they knew perfectly well that they were going to offend somebody. Today, it is much easier to cause offence without meaning to. For example, if a man opens a door to let a woman through first, and she does so without saying thank you, the man may feel offended. And if a man invites a woman to a restaurant of his choice on their first date, and then asks her to pay her half of the bill, it may be the woman who gets upset. Women no longer want to be treated as the weaker sex, which leaves men in a dilemma. On the one hand, men are conscious of the 'Ladies First' tradition, but on the other, they do not want to offend. Often, they don't know what to do.

The best advice is this: if in doubt, men should follow the rules of 'Ladies First'. Even if the woman considers the behaviour inappropriate, she will still realize that the man has good manners. This is particularly relevant on that first date we were talking about. If the man has invited the woman out, then he should pay the bill. Actually, it's the invitation to dinner itself that is important here, not the amount of money spent. In general, women appreciate a picnic or a home-made dinner just as much as an expensive meal.

So the answer to our original question is: yes. 'Ladies First' is still relevant today, but not in the same way as it was in the past. Most women appreciate a kind gesture made by a man, but he should never accompany it with the words 'Ladies First' – it spoils the effect completely!

LIVEWORKSHEETS