

READING PART 4

A world of differences

People enjoy eating together with family and friends in every corner of the world. However, customs to do with good behaviour around the dinner table vary greatly. What is seen as polite in one country may be seen as impolite in another. In many parts of the world, people think it is rude to eat your food noisily or to make any noise when you drink. **1**

In China, for example, it is considered polite to eat and drink noisily, because this is a sign that you are enjoying your meal. Chinese people also show respect to their hosts by always leaving a little food in their bowls. **2** Meanwhile, in India, people show respect to their hosts by finishing all their food.

There are even differences regarding how you sit at the dinner table. For instance, in Britain it is bad manners to put your elbows on the table, and children are taught to keep their hands under the table when they're not eating. **3** There, people are expected to keep their hands on the table at all times.

And what about when the meal is over and the restaurant bill arrives? In France, the custom is for one person to pay the whole bill. **4** Then, finally, there is the problem of whether or not to leave a tip for the staff. **5** In Japan, people almost never tip, while in the USA, you are expected to leave at least 15–20%. So, before you travel anywhere, make sure you know the local customs!

Five sentences have been removed from the text below.

For each question, choose the correct answer.

There are three extra sentences which you do not need to use.

- A** But in France, the opposite is true.
- B** For example, not everybody eats with a knife and fork.
- C** But in some countries, this is actually seen as a good thing.
- D** It is polite to arrive on time for meals.
- E** In many countries, people only give one if the service has been especially good.
- F** Eating everything that is given to you is considered rude.
- G** There are differences in the times that people eat, too.
- H** In Germany, however, it is divided up according to how much each person has eaten.