

Vocabulary Quiz I



Inside a New York City subway car

Subway etiquette is the set of politeness rules for the people who ride (take) the subway. Other public transportation like buses or trains have similar rules. Some of these rules are written, like the ones shown by the signs above. But rules of etiquette are also often unwritten. Some examples of unwritten rules of etiquette in the New York subway are *Don't talk to people you don't know* and *Don't sit right next to passengers you don't know if there are other seats available*.

What do you do in the following situations? Take the quiz to see what kind of New York subway rider (passenger) you might be. Read each situation and choose your answer. Pay attention to the boldfaced words.

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SUBWAY ETIQUETTE QUIZ

- You are trying to enter the subway station, but your MetroCard¹ doesn't work.
 - You shout **rude** words and hit the turnstile² with your hand until a police officer comes to see what's going on.
 - You quickly try two more times, then ask a subway employee for help.
 - You try ten more times and say to the people waiting behind you: "You can never **rely on** these stupid machines! They are always broken!"
- Your train arrives. As the doors open, you see that there are several people who want to get off the train.
 - You stand to the side so that you don't **block** the way.
 - You push through the doors as fast as you can to find a seat.
 - You stand in front of the door and let people go around you to get off.
- An **elderly** woman gets on the train. She looks for a seat, but there are no more seats left. You have a seat.
 - You pretend to be asleep so that you don't **make eye contact with** her.
 - You stay where you are and tell her to hold on to the **pole** when the train starts moving.
 - You stand up and give your seat to the woman.
- You have a cold and begin to **sneeze** on a crowded train. Someone hands you a tissue.³
 - You take it, say thank you, and blow your nose.
 - You pretend not to notice.
 - You ask, "Is there a 'no sneezing' rule? Is it your job to **enforce** it?"

¹ MetroCard: name of the card you need to have to ride the subway or the bus in New York City

² turnstile: a gate that spins around and only lets one person through at a time

³ tissue: a paper handkerchief for wiping noses

Add up your points using this key.

1. Your score:	2. Your score:	3. Your score:	4. Your score:	Your total score:
A—0 points	A—2 points	A—1 point	A—2 points	_____
B—2 points	B—0 points	B—0 points	B—1 point	_____
C—1 point	C—1 point	C—2 points	C—0 points	_____

If your score is:

- 8 points:** New York is proud to have you riding its subway. Thank you for being an excellent example of **civilized** behavior.
- 6–7 points:** You have a few things to learn about how to behave in New York's subway. Watch other riders more carefully to learn about subway **etiquette**. And study the NYC Transit rules of conduct.
- 5 points or less:** Please get a car. Or move to an island in the middle of the Arctic Ocean. Learn some **manners**.

Look again at the boldfaced words and phrases in the quiz. Then match the words and phrases on the left with the definitions on the right.

rude	to look someone in the eyes
rely on (something)	to make sure that people do something that they are supposed to do
block	polite ways of behaving (<i>That child has no ____!</i>)
elderly	to stand in the way
make eye contact with (someone)	a long round piece of metal for holding onto
pole	organized so that people are nice to each other and take care of each other
sneeze	to expect something to work right
manners	old
enforce (something)	not polite; hurtful
civilized	to blow air through your nose suddenly (saying "Aaaaatchoo!")
etiquette	a set of politeness rules