

Vocabulary

Table manners

1 Circle the most logical option (a or b) to follow each sentence.

- 1 In my country, bringing a small gift when you visit someone's house is a sign of good manners and almost everyone does it.
 - People expect it because it's typical behavior.
 - Doing so may offend your host.
- 2 We usually offer food to the guest first.
 - It's considered impolite.
 - It's part of being a polite host.
- 3 Where I live, it's usually appropriate to leave a tip for the waiter when you eat at a restaurant.
 - That's why I never do it.
 - However, if the service is bad, of course it's socially acceptable not to.
- 4 I think not taking the last piece of food shows some respect to the other guests.
 - So I try to take it if I have the chance.
 - Taking the last piece of food might offend them.
- 5 Arriving a few minutes after the invitation time is socially acceptable in my country.
 - But it's impolite to arrive more than ten minutes late.
 - You really shouldn't do it.

2 Circle the correct options to complete the text about manners.

If you're a dinner guest at someone's house in another country, it may be useful to try to find out what behavior is *'typical / not socially acceptable'* and try to copy it. Even if you get it a bit wrong sometimes, just trying *will* probably be seen as *'inappropriate / a sign of good manners'*. People can usually tell if you're trying to *'offend them / show them some respect'*, and they will appreciate your effort. In most cases, if you accidentally do something that's *'socially acceptable / impolite'*, it will most likely be ignored. If you ever have a *'guest / host'* from another country in your home, remember, they may or may not be familiar with local ideas about good table manners.

Focus On

Negative prefixes for adjectives

1 Complete the conversation with the correct prefixes.

Aisha: Hector asked me if I liked his new hairstyle, and I'm afraid my answer was a bit ¹ honest.

Benji: What did you say?

Aisha: Well, I didn't want to be ² polite, so I told him I thought it looked nice. But I think he looks better with longer hair.

Benji: I think you did the right thing. It would be ³ sensitive to tell the truth in that situation. It would make him ⁴ happy knowing you don't think his hair looks good.

Aisha: Have you seen it?

Benji: No, what does it look like?

Aisha: Like he cut it himself! It's really ⁵ regular—a bit long here, a bit short there.

2 Complete the sentences with these adjectives and the correct prefixes.

flexible	formal	logical	organized
patient	perfect	respectful	

1 The people *in line* for a table at the restaurant had been waiting for more than an hour and looked _____.

2 I prefer to keep my kitchen *neat* and can't stand trying to cook when the kitchen is _____.

3 Even when a meal is *more relaxed* and _____, manners are important.

4 We need to be quiet inside the building. Talking or making noises is _____.

5 His argument was completely _____. It didn't make any sense at all.

6 It rained a bit on our picnic, but we had a nice time despite the _____ weather.

7 Felix can be a bit _____ and gets upset if you suggest changing the routine.

Listening

1 **1.4M** Listen and complete the sentences. Then listen again and check your answers.

- 1 _____ ever put your elbows on the table?
- 2 _____ ever have to hold oranges under your arms?
- 3 It _____ eat properly.
- 4 That _____ need to keep your elbows by your side.
- 5 She thought it was impolite to _____ elbows out when you eat.
- 6 My grandfather also _____ have two ears and one mouth for a reason.

2 **1.4S** Listen to the conversation between Anne, Lutz, and Aadhyा. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1 Anne, Lutz, and Aadhyा are talking about manners they learned when they were growing up.	T F
2 They discuss foods that they weren't allowed to eat.	T F
3 They talk about embarrassing times when they accidentally did something rude at the table.	T F
4 The topic of talking at the table comes up.	T F

5 The group agree that manners shouldn't be taken seriously.

T F

3 **1.4S** Listen again. Circle the best answer for each question.

- 1 What is Anne unsure about?
 - whether it's OK to sit on her knees
 - where to put her hands
 - the politest way to ask for more food
- 2 What does Lutz say about oranges?
 - he was taught how to eat them properly
 - his grandmother didn't allow him to eat them
 - he used them to learn to hold his elbows in while eating
- 3 What table manners were Aadhyा taught as a child?
 - how to prepare the table for a meal
 - the socially acceptable way to invite people to a meal
 - the polite way to order French food
- 4 What do they mention that's polite in some places and impolite in others?
 - leaving food on your plate
 - talking during a meal
 - making noise while eating
- 5 What did Aadhyा have to know in order to be polite?
 - the correct greeting to use
 - people's age
 - how people were related to her—cousin, uncle, etc.



