



Spotlight 8

Reading Task 8113

Read the text and mark the statements True (1), False (2), Not Stated (3).

Etiquette is protocol, rules of behaviour that you memorise. Manners demonstrate socially acceptable behaviour, of course, but also much more than that. They are an expression of how you treat others when you care about them, their self-esteem (самоуважение), and their feelings.

Early North American etiquette books claimed that the manners and customs of the "Best Society" could be imitated by all. But some authors stated that the lower classes, meaning those "whose experience in life has been a hardening process," in fact, treated the rules of etiquette with "contempt and ... a sneer."

Modern etiquette books do not use the concept of "best society", but rather define etiquette as a set of guidelines that "help steer our behaviour as we move through our daily routines" and that can help deal with "the pressures of modern life which make it all the more difficult to stay civil."

This change is reflected in the content of etiquette books; etiquette books published in the early 20th century had detailed advice on the treatment of servants, the formal dinner parties, and the behaviour of a debutante; more modern books are likely to emphasise the importance of respecting people of all classes, races, and ethnic backgrounds. Etiquette writers are sure that etiquette rules serve to make life more pleasant.

1. The knowledge of etiquette rules helps to get to the upper society.
2. Etiquette dictates certain rules of behaviour in a number of situations.
3. Etiquette exists only for the upper society.
4. Old American etiquette books were only for the rich.
5. The working people don't need to study etiquette rules.
6. Modern etiquette books give advice to everybody how to act correctly and politely in certain situations.
7. A special section of any etiquette book gives advice how to behave towards servants.
8. Etiquette books are important to study.

