23 Manners

A Table manners

In Japan, it is **considered** rude to cross your chopsticks, **lick** them, or **stick** them vertically into a bowl of rice and leave them pointing **upwards**.

In France, don't offer to **split** the bill: it is not **regarded as** very **sophisticated**. You either pay the bill, or someone else does.

In the Philippines, it is considered **good manners** to eat all the food on your plate.

In Afghanistan, wasting food is **unacceptable**. Eating or talking with your mouth full is **viewed as** being **discourteous**.

In China, it is **customary** to pass food to the elderly first. It can be **offensive** to remove rice from a bowl with a spoon.

GLOSSARY

lick	move your tongue over the surface of sth in order to eat it, make it wet or clean it
stick	push sth, usually sth quite sharp, into sth else
upwards	moving or pointing towards a higher position OPP **downwards**
split	divide sth into two or more parts, and share it between different people
sophisticated	having experience of the world and knowing about fashion, culture, etc. OPP **unsophisticated**; **sophistication** *n*
manners *pl*	behaviour that is considered polite in a particular society or culture: ***It's good/bad manners to ...***
unacceptable	not agreed or approved of by most people in society OPP **acceptable**
discourteous	having bad manners and not showing respect for other people OPP **courteous**; **courtesy** *n*
customary	usually done in a particular place or situation
offensive	rude in a way that makes sb upset or annoyed OPP **inoffensive**; **offend** *v*

SPOTLIGHT *consider, regard, view*

These verbs all mean to think about something in a particular way. They are commonly used in passive constructions like this:

- *Apologizing is **considered (to be)** the correct thing to do.*
- *Apologizing is **regarded/viewed as** the correct thing to do.*

1 Write the opposites.

1 sophisticated .....
2 offensive .....
3 upwards .....
4 courteous .....
5 acceptable .....
6 good manners .....

2 Complete the sentences using the correct form of the word in capitals.

1 Their behaviour doesn't show much ..... . SOPHISTICATED
2 I'm sure it wasn't his intention to ..... you. OFFENSIVE
3 Is it ..... to arrive ten minutes late for a dinner? CUSTOM
4 His behaviour is occasionally rude and ..... . ACCEPT
5 The waiters are always very ..... and polite. COURTESY
6 It was an ..... remark, but for some reason it upset her. OFFENSIVE

3 Complete the words in the sentences.

1 It is quite c..... to eat chicken legs or wings with your fingers.
2 Parents think it's important for children to have good table m..... .
3 It is c..... bad manners to eat everything you are given.
4 It is v..... as polite to offer food to the elderly first.
5 It's d..... to start eating your food before others have been served.
6 It's r..... to criticize the host's food.
7 Talking with your mouth full might not be considered very s..... .
8 It is customary among young people to s..... the bill in restaurants.
9 It is viewed as rude to l..... your knife, fork or spoon when you have finished eating, or s..... your own knife, fork or spoon into dishes of food for the whole table.

4 ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY **Are the sentences in Exercise 3 true or false, or does it depend on different factors? Write your answers, or ask another student.**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B Polite or impolite?

Dan Ella's behaviour is **exceptional** for a child of six.

Beth Yes, but that brother of hers is a bit **cheeky**.

Jo I don't think Giulio will **take offence** if you leave the party early.

Tom I just don't want to **put my foot in it**. I want to **impress** his family, and that wouldn't help.

Jo Well, you'd better **be on your best behaviour**, then!

Kaz I really **took exception to** Adam's **remarks**. He thought they were **humorous**, but actually, they were **deeply** offensive.

Ben Yes, I couldn't agree more. They showed a real lack of **judgement**. He has no **notion** of how to behave.

GLOSSARY

exceptional	unusually good SYN **outstanding**
cheeky *inf*	(often used by adults about children) rude, often in an amusing way **cheek** *n*
take offence (at sth)	be upset or offended by sth that sb has said or done
put your foot in it (with sb) *inf*	accidentally say sth that offends or upsets sb
impress	If sth/sb **impresses** you, you admire it/them. **impressed** *adj*
be on your best behaviour	behave in the most polite way you can
take exception (to sth)	object strongly to sth and be angry about it
remark	a few words that give your opinion about sth SYN **comment**
humorous	funny and entertaining; showing a **sense of humour**
deeply	very; very much: ***deeply offensive/ upsetting/hurtful***
judgement	the ability to form opinions or make sensible decisions: ***show good/poor judgement***
notion (of sth)	an idea or an understanding of sth

5 Is the speaker happy or unhappy? Write *H* or *U*.

1 My wife has outstanding judgement. .....
2 I put my foot in it with Carla. .....
3 She took offence at my remark. .....
4 My boss has no sense of humour. .....
5 I made a really humorous comment. .....
6 I took exception to the criticism. .....
7 The hosts impressed me. .....
8 My little girl was on her best behaviour. .....

6 Circle the words in italics which are possible. All three may be.

1 He was ***outstanding / put his foot in it / on his best behaviour.***
2 She made ***a humorous / an upsetting / a cheeky*** remark.
3 What she said showed ***poor / impressed / good*** judgement.
4 Unfortunately, she took ***exception to / offence at / her foot in*** what I said.
5 That little boy's behaviour is ***exceptional / cheek / outstanding.***
6 I thought the comment deeply ***offensive / poor / upsetting.***
7 He has ***a sense of humour / no notion of politeness / poor judgement.***
8 He's not always well behaved but today he ***impressed me / had no sense of humour / was exceptional.***

7 Complete the texts.

I have a very unusual friend called Erwin who likes to try and **(1)** ..... people – he loves being admired. He's incredibly polite and has **(2)** ..... table manners. I always feel rather uncomfortable with him, because I feel I have to be on my best **(3)** ..... all the time. I'm very nervous about putting my **(4)** ..... in it, especially if I go to his place for dinner. If I get there even five minutes late, he seems to take **(5)** ..... .

I've taken a strong dislike to one of the guys who works for me. He's very rude; in fact, I'd say he's **(6)** ..... offensive. The other day he made a rude **(7)** ..... about my appearance, which frankly is none of his business, and I really took **(8)** ..... to it. Calling me 'carrot top' because of my red hair showed very poor **(9)** ....., I felt. He thought it was a **(10)** ..... comment, but I didn't find it funny at all.

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS