

How to Act in the Classroom

Here's a quick quiz question:

You're working at the art table in the classroom. You have markers, paints, and paper spread out around you. Suddenly the lunch bell rings. What do you do?

- (a) Run to be the first person on line in the cafeteria. You're hungry!
- (b) Sweep the art supplies off the table and onto the floor. The table is clean!
- (c) Clean up the supplies you have used. Now, lunchtime!

You probably chose the correct answer: "Clean up the supplies you have used. Now, lunchtime!" How did you know? Because you have good manners, and that means you clean up after yourself.

Good manners are important wherever you are. You certainly need them at school, where you spend the day with many other people. It is important to be **civil** and respectful to people at school. Let's talk about a few ways to act in the classroom.

First, remember to give everyone a chance to speak. Even if you have an idea to share with others, **self-control** is important. Don't interrupt your teacher when he or she is talking with another student. Wait until the conversation has finished. Then you may speak up.

Next, if the teacher asks the whole class a question, raise your hand. That's the signal that you have an answer.

Also, in the classroom, you'll find children you don't know. When you meet someone new, make sure to **introduce** yourself. For example, say, "Hello, my name is Jasmine," in a friendly tone of voice.

Another thing: remember to share classroom materials with others. If someone else wants to use the supplies that you are using, **invite** him or her to join you. Asking someone to share with you is not only polite, it can help you make a new friend!

Finally, school is not the place to ask other children to a party or a playdate. You can do this after school hours. You can call your friends on the telephone or send a card or **note** with your message. Otherwise, you risk hurting the feelings of the children that you haven't asked to join you.

Remember that even the most polite children make mistakes from time to time. What do you do then? **Apologize**. A simple "I'm sorry" goes a long way in making up for poor manners.

COMPREHENSION Why is it important to use good manners in the classroom? Which words help you describe how you should or shouldn't act in the classroom?



Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm

UNITED STATES

$2+2=4$ $2+5=7$
 $2+3=5$ $2+6=8$
 $2+4=6$ $2+7=9$

When It Rains, It Roars

Outside, the rain was falling hard. It pounded against the roof of the house. It poured down every window. It fell, and it fell, and it kept on falling all day long.

Inside the house, Bunker was hiding beneath the couch. The rain was so loud, so **fierce**, and so powerful, it filled Bunker's heart with **terror**. He began to think **frightening** thoughts. What if the rain became so strong that it came alive? What would a rain monster look like? Would it be so **savage** that it would try to destroy the house? That's when Bunker started to panic. He whined. He howled. He crawled as far under the couch as he could go.

Bunker's owner, Marlana, walked into the room. "Bunker, what is the matter with you?" she asked the panicking puppy. "It's just rain, silly. Now come on, it's time to go for a walk."

But Bunker was imagining rain monsters outside. Their faces were mean and **horrifying**. When Marlana reached for him, Bunker growled.

Marlana frowned. "OK, Bunker. I'm going to the store. You can stay here by yourself."

Marlana left, and the rain kept falling. Bunker's fears grew worse.

Finally, Marlana came home, and soon after, she went to bed. Bunker stayed beneath the couch and whimpered.

In the morning, Marlana found Bunker right where she'd left him. Marlana knew that Bunker was still frightened. But she had a plan.

"Bunker, I know how you can fight your fears," she said. "You just need to trust me. And you need to come out from under that couch."

Bunker crawled out slowly. Marlana scooped him up and hurried to the front door. Before Bunker could understand what was happening, they were standing outside in the cold rain.

Bunker closed his eyes and waited for the rain monsters to attack. He waited, and waited. And then he opened his eyes. Bunker barked happily. There were no rain monsters out there. He was just getting wet! He no longer felt afraid.

Bunker gave Marlana a slobbery kiss on the face.

COMPREHENSION What words help you understand how Bunker is feeling? When do Bunker's feelings change?

