

Social Etiquette Rules Everyone Should Follow To Make The World A Nicer Place

Offer Up Your Seat

If you're in perfectly good health, offer your seat to anyone who is either in poor health or pregnant. Make commuting easier for those who need it.

Let Your Waiter Come to You

Never yell or wave your hand at a waiter while dining. Make their job easier by being patient, or politely get their attention when they pass by.

Make Sure to Tip

Tipping is essential for certain service industry employees to make a decent income. Make sure to leave a tip as a token of your gratitude whenever possible, even services you might not think of, like a haircut, nail salons, restaurants or dog grooming. The norm for tipping is 15% to 20%.

Say "Excuse Me"

It's the polite thing to do when you bump into someone. Even if you're not really the one to blame, why not just avoid conflict and brush off the situation?

Say "Please" and "Thank You"

Especially to those closest to you.

Smile!

At the cashier. The bank teller. Your co-worker. Even if he or she doesn't smile back.

Hold the Door for the Person Behind You

And if someone holds the door for you, always say "thank you"!

Step Outside to Answer Phone Calls

Sometimes you have to take the call—but is it always that important? Besides, it's not so fun to hear your conversation when we're trapped behind you in line.

Put Down The Phone At The Counter

Ask your phone guest to hold one while you check out and devote your attention to the clerk helping you for a minute or less.

Give People a Pass

Cranky salesperson? Nasty driver? You have no idea what's going on with that person right now: Did her dog die? Did he just get bad health news? You don't have to reward ugly behavior with your own nastiness, which only perpetuates the cycle.

Look At the Person Who Is Speaking to You

Seriously. Look up from your smartphone!

Let Someone Go In Front of You In Line

We promise, it'll make his or her day.

Cough or Sneeze Into Your Elbow

Make sure you're doing what you can to avoid spreading germs.

Learn People's Names

There are some easy ways to remember names. Do a search online for easy tips!

Handwrite Thank-You Notes

He or she took the time to send the gift; take the time to show you care.

Put Your Smartphone Away During Meals

Right. Now. (I make it into a game. Whoever touches their phone pays for all the meals!)

Be On Time

We're all busy, so please stop making people wait for you.

Clean Up After Your Pet

It's just plain icky to leave it.

Always RSVP (French way of saying please respond = Répondez s'il vous plaît)

And do it right away before you forget.

Ask Before Posting

Not everyone wants to be all over social media, and you're not a reporter— so stop spreading the news.

Curb Your Potty Mouth

We know it's satisfying like nothing else! But would you want your Grandma to hear?

Keep the Noise Down

Silence the ringer on your smartphone, speak quietly, and turn the sound down on your dinging email so it's not bugging everyone

Shake Hands Firmly

And stand and make eye contact when you do it.

Dress for the Occasion

Please wear your PJs at home, not to the grocery store!

Use Your Turn Signal

It's not just courteous, it can help avoid an accident.

Wash Your Hands After Using the Bathroom

Because just... eww!

Park Your Shopping Cart On the Side of the Aisle and return it after use (not in lot)

Not in the center! The rest of us are shopping, too. We do not dings in our car from carts

Ask Permission to Use Someone's First Name

Yes, it's a super-casual society, but it's never wrong to use a title until you know what the person prefers.

Clean Up After Yourself

At home. At work. At a friend's house. In class. The restroom.

Wait a Day Before Reacting to a Snarky Email or Text

We know it's tempting to slam the person immediately, but that often backfires.

Push Your Chair In When You Leave a Table

Don't make someone else do it for you.

Ask Before Bringing a Guest

Or your kids. Or your pet. Don't assume they're automatically invited, no matter how well you know your host or hostess.

Wait Until Everyone Has Been Served to Start Eating

No matter how much you want to dig in ASAP.

Be a Good Dinner Guest

Certainly, if you have a food allergy, you can mention it ahead of time. But if you don't like a food or don't do carbs, don't announce it in front of everyone and expect your host or hostess to make you a special dish.

Sit Like a Royal

The "duchess slant," with your knees and ankles close together and your legs on a slant

Stay Home When You're Sick

Some things, like your cold, should not be shared.

Knock Before You Enter

No one likes to be barged in on.

Remember Your Table Manners

Napkin on your lap. No elbows on the table. Chew with your mouth closed.

Reach Out to People Who Are Grieving

Don't pretend nothing happened. If you don't know what to do, simply say you're sorry.

Let People Get Off the Elevator First Before You Get On

The same rule goes for the train and the bus.

Teach Others Good Manners

And lead by example.

Don't Groom Yourself In Public

Don't clip your nails, brush your hair, or floss your teeth in public. Because it's just gross.

Silence Your Smartphone At the Movies

And stop crinkling that candy wrapper so loudly, while you're at it.

Help Someone Who's Clearly Struggling

The next time you see someone straining to reach something on the highest shelf at the grocery store, help them out!

Bring Food

Take cookies, soup, or food to a new neighbor, someone who just lost a family member, or a friend who's had a serious health diagnosis.

Wipe Down the Exercise Machine After You Use It

Your fellow gym-goers will appreciate it.

Skip Controversial or Nosy Topics at Parties

No politics, religion, asking when they're getting pregnant, or how much weight she lost. We're all here to have fun not start a debate, remember?

Learn to Say You're Sorry

Be the bigger person

When You Enter a Room, Greet Everyone

No one likes to be ignored.

Return Calls

If someone takes the time to leave you a voicemail, take the time to call him or her back.

Never Show Up Empty-Handed

Remember to arrive with a host(ess) or housewarming gift

Be a Pleasant House Guest

Make your bed. Don't monopolize the bathroom. Take your hostess out to dinner, or send a gift later. You want to be invited back, right?