

Table Etiquette

Before the meal begins:

1. Be on time.
2. Dress appropriately.
3. Never comb your hair or apply makeup at the table.
4. Wash your hands before the meal.
5. Wait for host/hostess to tell you where to sit.
6. Remain standing until host/hostess tells everyone to sit down.
7. In taking your place at the table, sit down from the left of the chair.
8. Males should assist females as they sit at the table.

During the meal:

9. Place napkin on your lap.
10. Never tuck napkin under your chin.
11. Sit up straight with both feet on the floor.
12. Keep elbows off the table.
13. Wait until everyone is served before beginning to eat.
14. A cheerful conversation adds to the enjoyment of a meal.
15. Pass food to your right.
16. Say “please” and “thank-you” when asked for food to be passed to you.
17. Use the serving utensils to serve your food and not your own flatware.
18. Flatware is used from the outside in. Begin with the piece that is farthest from the plate.
19. Chew your food with your lips closed. Do not talk with your mouth full.
20. After your knife and fork have been used, keep them on the plate. Never place them on the tablecloth.
21. When drinking water, hold the glass near the base.
22. When food you dislike is served to you, eat what you can and do not draw attention to it.
23. Cut the meat on your plate one piece at a time.
24. When using a soup spoon, dip the spoon toward the back of the bowl.
25. Never blow on hot soup or any other hot food. Wait for the food to cool.
26. When you have finished eating, place the knife and fork on the plate.
27. Place your napkin to the side of the place on the table.



After the meal:

28. Toothpicks should be used in private.
29. Wait for the host/hostess to end the meal.
30. Asked to be excused.