

BASIC TABLE MANNERS



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Γ3
2022-2023

Wait for everyone to be seated.

This includes the host, too! If you're at a dinner party, let everyone get settled before you touch your place setting. The same goes for a restaurant—once your party is seated, you can start getting settled.



Place your napkin on your lap.

It will catch any food that falls off your fork. Unfold your napkin and gently place it over your entire lap, smoothing it down so it lays flat. You can use your napkin throughout your meal to wipe your hands or your mouth as you need to.



Don't eat until the host eats.

If there's no host, wait for the guest of honor to start eating. Once they take their first bite, you can go ahead and dig in! Some people also like to say grace or make a toast before a meal, so you may have to wait on that, too.



Keep your elbows off the table.

Tuck them in by your sides while you eat. Putting your elbows on the table takes up a lot of space, and it's considered bad manners. If you have any older relatives at the table, they might even call you out on it!



Eat slowly and with your mouth closed.

Try not to show anyone your food as you chew. If you want to say something, finish what's in your mouth and swallow before speaking up. Eat your food slowly and one bite at a time to avoid wolfing anything down.



Put your utensils on your plate when you're done.

It will make cleanup a lot easier. Try to place them both in the center of your plate so they don't fall off. If you're at a restaurant, it will signal to the waiter that you're ready for your plate to be taken away.



SOURCES OF INFORMATION

<https://www.wikihow.com/Have-Good-Table-Manners>

<https://www.scoopwhoop.com/food/basic-dining-table-etiquette/>

https://www.etiquettescholar.com/dining_etiquette/table_manners/table_manner_tips.html