

- ◆ Make sure your hands are clean at the table.
- ◆ Men and boys, remove your hats.
- ◆ Don't do gross things or talk about gross things at the table. Don't blow your nose, fart, talk about bathroom stuff or bugs or vomit or anything nasty. Eat with your mouth closed, don't talk with your mouth full, don't drink with your mouth full, don't slurp, and don't make loud chewing sounds.
- ◆ Elbows off the table when the eating begins and until the eating stops.
- ◆ Put your napkin on your lap.
- ◆ Don't touch food you're not going to eat yourself. Don't double-dip.
- ◆ Don't start to eat until everyone's sitting, everyone's been served, and the person with the highest authority begins (at home, that's Dad; at parties, it's the host or hostess).
- ◆ Don't gesture with the cutlery.
- ◆ Don't reach over people to get things from the table. Ask the person closest to what you want to please pass it to you.
- ◆ Offer to help whoever is cooking, serving, or cleaning up after meals. Thank that person and say something nice.
- ◆ When you're done eating and leave the table, push your chair back in toward the table.

- ◆ If you're eating in a restaurant:

Be mindful of the other patrons. Don't be loud, don't run around, don't whine, and don't stare at others.

Don't put the waiter in the position of having to make unnecessary trips back and forth. Figure out what you want and what you'll need, and ask for it all at once as best as you can.

Be polite and respectful to those who wait on you; say "thank you" every time a waiter brings you something. Don't make waiters' jobs more difficult; in fact, make their jobs easier if you can.

If you're in a fancy place, your cloth napkin goes to the left of your plate when you leave the table.

Don't forget to tip your waiter well in places where tips act as wages.