

15 Examples of Good and Bad Manners Around the World

Sit up straight, say please and thank you, don't put your elbows on the table, Most of us were drilled from an early age in proper manners and etiquette. But once you leave your home-country, things get a bit complicated. Here are some examples of how other cultures do things differently.

1. In China, Taiwan, and much of the Far East, belching is considered complimentary. In the West, it's a sign that you have eaten well and enjoyed your meal.

2. In most of the Middle and Far East, it's considered impolite to point your feet (especially the soles of another person's) or display them in any way, for example by sitting with your feet up.

3. In most Asian countries, a business card is treated as an extension of the person it represents. Therefore, to disrespect a card – by stepping, sitting on it, or just shoving it into your pocket without looking at it – is to disrespect the person who gave it to you.

4. Handshakes, or bone-crushing handshakes as well as otherwise in the United States and EU, but in much of the East, especially the Philippines, it's viewed as a sign of aggression – just as if you gave the other part of a person's body a hard no-nonsense. A heavy handshake and what happens at some Eastern cultures where it's viewed as a sign of aggression.

5. Catholics and other Christians shake hands with someone of the opposite sex, while strict Muslims will not shake hands with anyone. To shake hands, a Muslim will shake hands with a man, Muslim women, people in these cultures generally avoid touching people of the opposite sex who are not family members.

6. When dining in China, never force yourself to clear your plate out of politeness – it would be very bad manners for you that not to keep eating it. Instead, you should take some food from your plate at each course as an acknowledgment of your host's generosity.

Manners that may be good in the United States may not be suitable parts of the world, like the rest of our list for more ideas.