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Fine Dining is More Than Eating

Coco Chanel, the founder of Chanel, once said, "Dress shabbily and they remember the dress; dress impeccably and they remember the woman."

Emily Post, "Nothing is less important than which fork you use. Etiquette is the science of living. It embraces everything. It is ethics. It is honor."

Table Etiquette You Forgot How to Use During Covid

Getting back to business means once again attending live events and in particular, eating at a table with other people. People you might want to impress. People who might judge you by your table manners. Recently I was in a room with 620 people all sitting down to a fairly fancy lunch. What I saw made me realize a refresher is in order.

Books have been written on the subject since -- well, forever, but my first was a small book written with sage advice by George Washington. I've been fortunate to have parents who taught me the ins and outs of etiquette -- and a few grandmothers and aunts. Many people aren't so lucky. And as I tell all of my students, you might not be able to change the physical way you were born, but you can change your manners, your education, and a few other things. I'd suggest taking advantage of these simple tips. They can also help in your personal life.

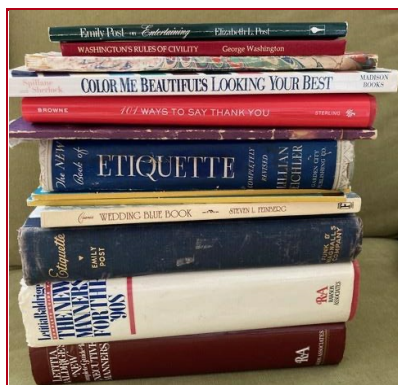
Here are a few of my thoughts:

- Do keep an extra bit of dress-up clothes at the office in case you need to substitute for someone at the last minute (People who move up the **ladder wear nice clothes** every day anyway. Studies show that people accomplish better results when dressed nicely).
- Do be on time and be sure to put your name tag on the upper right shoulder (It provides a direct line of sight when shaking hands so people will easily be able to see your name).
- Do introduce yourself to everyone at your table and make them feel welcome.
- Do put your napkin in your lap, or on your chair if you need to stand for the color guard or the national anthem. (Please don't talk during those moments).
- Do silence your cell phones and forget about them for the entire event. (Reading your phone when people are speaking is rude-- and it disturbs your neighbor's concentration and shows you as an uncaring participant.) If you must return an urgent email/call leave the table. We all communicate differently. Generations aside, it's still key to be aware of the **ongoing social norms**.

- Do wait until your host begins to start eating. At large events, it's wise to wait and see if there will be a prayer.
- Do pass the rolls, butter, salad dressing, and anything else that has been set on the center of the table--even if you don't want anything. (Salt and pepper always get passed as a pair).
- Do alert your host if you have food allergies. (Tell the waiter not to serve you, rather than waste food).
- Do wear black or dark ties in case coffee gets spilled all over you or a bit of dressing falls on your front.
- Do chew with your mouth closed. (Only put on your fork or spoon what you intend to eat in ONE bite. Never pull half of the food off and leave the other half for the next bite - more than repulsive to watch!)
- Do use either the **American style or the European style** when using utensils. (Never mix the two. YouTube has multiple lessons. The fork and knife go across the upper right of your plate when the meal is finished. The knife goes on the outside with the blade turned in. This is so a waitress will know you're finished and so that she can easily pick up both fork and knife and plate with one hand and not cut herself.
- Do keep all used utensils on plates. They NEVER go on the table. If you find yourself in need of clean cutlery, ask the waiter for a new one.
- Do trade business contact information. Be sure to bring cards with you to the event.
- Do refrain from talking while speakers are delivering their speech.
- Do use a butter knife. Put a pat of butter on your bread and butter plate (upper left), break a roll into a tiny ONE bite piece and put butter on that piece.
- Do bring a hankie in case of a need to blow your nose. Napkins are for food only.
- Do cut your food one bite at a time, not the whole plate at once.
- Do wait for the waitress to remove each course. Do not push a dinner plate into the center of the table and grab the dessert and start eating. Do not stack dishes for the waitress.
- Do put your napkin beside your plate like a collapsed parachute when the meal is finished. Never put a napkin on a soiled plate.
- Do check out this advice from **Virginia Tech** on career development. Spoiler alert: it's all about etiquette.
- Do order and read multiple **Etiquette Books** or watch various experts on YouTube.

I'm available to teach a class at your company. Please contact me for the details.

Thank you,

Remember the average person may only read one book a year.

As an avid reader, you'll likely speak more professionally, confidently and easily, which are hallmarks of a great communicator in business and elsewhere. Understanding the art of language will set you apart from others in the working world, and there are few better ways to learn about language than through reading.

Naturally I give Etiquette classes. The best ones happen when we all sit around a table with the worst meal you can imagine.....

and....

If any of you would like to have a talk on **Fungi 101**, foraging and forest bathing tips, I'm available to present to your group.

Friend of the Family Shameless Pitch:

GlenHaven Legacy offers the highest quality timber frame entertainment pavilions in the Puget Sound area. At GlenHaven Legacy, modern architectural design is joined with old-world timber framing technique to produce a truly beautiful and unique heirloom for discerning families.



GlenHaven Legacy is a partnership between brothers Mark and Scott Olson. Mark is a timber framer, an engineer and an artist. Scott is a retired FBI agent and an entrepreneur. They have deep ties to Seattle which began in 1934 when their grandfather bought acreage from the Puget Mill Company on the shores of Lake Washington in what is now North Seattle. Their family has lived on this land continuously since the initial purchase and the brothers grew up there. Their Grandmother called the land GlenHaven and the brothers honor her legacy through the company and the unique timber frames they build.

GlenHaven Legacy builds gazebo-size timber frame entertainment pavilions and is proud to offer the absolute best available in modern entertainment structures. GlenHaven Legacy uses the most unique and expensive features possible in timber frame construction. This means the joinery is complex, and the assembly is difficult. It takes time and skill and effort. But it's beautiful.

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