

MANNER CURIOUS

Some old-time courtesies are not always relevant but it's interesting to know why they came into existence. Find out more...

Few bygone era etiquette rules may leave you feeling baffled. Most of these manner modes were put into place for a reason that may or may not still apply. Here are those not-very-modern-time etiquette guidelines along with their back stories.

Removing hat/cap when entering a building

Back then: In early modern times, when people walked around dusty roads or industrial cities with soot in the air, the hat caught a lot of grime that would fall on the floor when they entered a room. Back then, it made sense to remove the hat and leave it on a rack in the entry area to prevent the dirt being shaken off in the room.

What about today? The only time you need to follow this rule now is when your hat or cap obstructs someone's view or if you are in a social situation that makes it awkward not to do so.



Sitting with ankles crossed

Back then: Grandmothers used to tell girls to sit up straight with their ankles crossed in a ladylike fashion.

What about today? While sitting up straight is a good rule, the crossed ankles are no longer necessary. Check pic: British royalty Kate Middleton is sitting up straight but her ankles are not crossed.

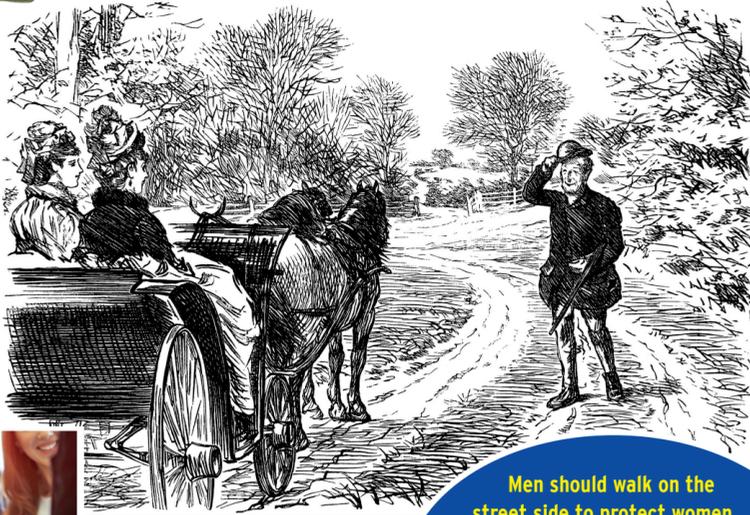


Shaking hands during introduction/greeting

Back then: The origin of handshake has a couple of stories. One school of thought is that it signifies a transfer of power from one person to another. Though many historians believe that it was originally used as a



History of old school etiquette rules



Men should walk on the street side to protect women

Back then: When horse and buggy were the normal mode of transportation, men protected ladies from street dangers by providing a shield from horses and puddle splashes.

What about today? This is obviously no longer necessary, so both sexes should walk on whichever side of the sidewalk they are comfortable with.

method to check for weapons when encountering someone you don't know or haven't seen in a long time.

What about today? Shaking hands is still considered the appropriate way to greet another person and is likely to remain that way. Keep it firm and friendly.



Blessing someone after a sneeze

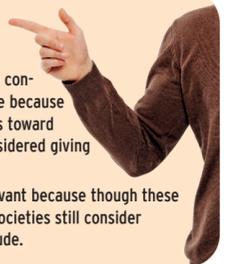
Back then: Do you say "God bless you," after someone sneezes? It was once thought that a person would lose a part of his soul with each sneeze, and bad health would fall over the person. "God bless you" was considered a spiritual protection line to keep the soul intact.

What about today? Few people know the history of its origin but say it because it is like a courtesy norm. It is still considered polite and just the right thing to do.

Pointing fingers or staring at someone

Back then: Some ancient cultures considered it rude to point to someone because it was believed to direct evil spirits toward the subject. Staring was often considered giving someone the "evil eye."

What about today? It is still relevant because though these myths have been dispelled, most societies still consider finger pointing and staring to be rude.



➤ The alternative to shaking hands exists in other cultures like saying 'Namaste' in India and bowing in Japan



● The word "etiquette" originally came from a French warning to "keep off the grass." Over time, it became what we know as good manners today

Compiled by Team NIE

ONLINE UNIVERSE

5 apps to chat and work



KIK: Many messaging apps require you to give your phone number to those who you chat with, but Kik only requires a username. Group chat, photo and video sharing add to this fresh youth-focused app's appeal.



MS OUTLOOK: Outlook's flexible mobile email app supports nearly every email account you might have. It includes an integrated calendar, and provides a focused inbox that shows you only important messages.



SPARK EMAIL: Spark sports a slick interface and organises your email into logical categories like personal, newsletters, and notifications, though you can switch to a more standard full inbox view if you like.



MENTION: It scours the web day and night to find new instances of search terms of your choosing and alerts you when it finds them. Mention's search-and-alert program is an alternative to Google Alerts.



TUMBLR: Tumblr goes beyond photos, and lets you post blog entries, videos, and more. But more important than posting is reposting, which fosters a lot of user interaction. The service also discourages trolling of other users.



Facebook Messenger, Gmail and Skype are not the only communication apps you should be limited to when using your smartphone. Check out several other popular options too

STAY SAFE

Avoid installing apps from links in emails, social media, text messages and websites that look suspicious

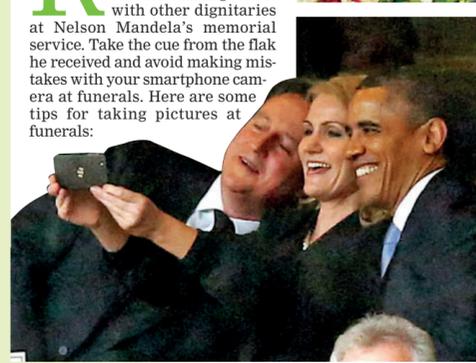
➤ Closely review apps to make sure they're not fake. Look for grammar and spelling errors: these are signs of the brand not being legitimate

Source: in.pcmag.com

ETIQUETTE FAUX PAUS

Taking pictures at funerals?

Remember how former US president Barack Obama landed in a soup over his smiling selfies with other dignitaries at Nelson Mandela's memorial service. Take the cue from the flak he received and avoid making mistakes with your smartphone camera at funerals. Here are some tips for taking pictures at funerals:



➤ Never take anyone's picture at a funeral without asking for permission. Once you have it, take that picture and put away your smartphone.

➤ If you have been asked to photograph at the funeral, don't use flash, as the bright light is very distracting.

➤ Never ever take a smiling selfie beside the casket/deceased.

➤ If you really want to take a picture with someone else who is attending, wait until it is over. Then go to a different location so you don't disrupt the family and friends of those who are grieving.

➤ Don't post any photos of the deceased on social media. Doing so is disrespectful and shows a lack of empathy towards people who lost a loved one.

Team NIE



Expert SPEAK

Q Is there a courteous way to receive unwanted gifts? Sometimes I don't know what is the right thing to say or do when I get something I can't use at all.
- Confused Teen

A. Hi, to accept an unwanted gift graciously is an art, but a learnt one, of course. Check these tips to react appropriately when you get a gift you would rather do without.

■ Smile, say thanks, and no negative comments: When you open the gift, look the

giver in the eye and thank him/her with a smile, even if you don't like the gift at all. Sometimes people say inappropriate things like, "Oh, you spent too much money." or "How am I going to use it?" Don't say anything like this as it's disrespectful to the gift giver.

SUNAINNA A HAK, etiquette guide



JANUARY 28, 2020

MUST SEE

MUST DO

TV & MOVIES

SPY IN THE WILD, ANIMAL PLANET, 3.56 PM

THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR, SONY PIX SD, 5.27 PM

STREET SCIENCE, DISCOVERY SCIENCE, 5.30 PM

RETURN TO THE 36TH CHAMBER, MNX, 7.12 PM

FACT: There is an ice rink inside the Eiffel Tower. Opened in 2018, this winter ice rink is functional during peak winter, from December to February, and is built 200 feet off the ground, offering stunning views of Paris.

1813: Jane Austen's 'Pride & Prejudice' was published in the United Kingdom.

1925: Raja Ramanna, eminent nuclear scientist, was born.

THIS DAY THAT YEAR

1986: The US space shuttle Challenger exploded just after take-off. All seven of its crew members were killed.

1887: Work began on the iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris.

FACT: Jane Austen wrote the book 'Pride and Prejudice' when she was 21 years old, but it didn't get published until she was 37. She wrote six complete novels. It is believed that the title of the book is taken from a passage in Fanny Burney's popular 1782 novel 'Cecilia'.