

1. What will happen if we fail to abide by the manners and customs? Explain with examples.
2. Can you list some differences in manners or customs between China in the Western countries.
3. What should we do if we visit a country that has very different manners or customs from China?

- Q: What precautions should be kept in mind when paying a social call?  
A: You should be sensitive to the routines of your friends so that your visit does not become an imposition.
- Q: Why is it important to be punctual?  
A: The lack of punctuality implies that we do not have consideration for other peoples time and displays selfish behavior. If you arrived late to a dinner, it can greatly inconvenience your host.
- Q: what should be kept in mind when giving presents?  
A: Giving a present is a sign of affection, gratitude, or friendship. The present should be unique yet appropriate and should fall within your financial means. A distinction should be made between the gifts we give to friends and those we give to colleagues.
- Q: How do people sit correctly at the table?  
A: The basic rule is to be natural, keep your posture straight and never rest your elbows on the table before or during dinner.
- Q: How do people set the table properly?  
A: Centerpieces should be low so as not to interrupt the line of sight of the guests. The table should be set according to the style of food that you're serving and the degree of formality.
- Q: How to converse properly?  
A: When talking to someone, you should look at the person straight in the eyes. Speak in a language that will be understood by everyone present. Remember that a good conversationalist is one who makes those around him or her feel comfortable and eager to engage in the conversation.
- Q: How to make a phone call?  
A: Never eat or drink while talking on the phone. When making a phone call, introduce yourself first before you ask for the person with whom you would like to speak. If an answering machine picks up the call, leave a brief and clear message. When calling somebody, be sure to be considerate and know the proper time to say goodbye.
- Q: Is attire important?  
A: Yes. You communicate through your attire, your hairstyle, your fingernail polish, and the like. Your clothing should not be stained or wrinkled; shoes should be clean and polished.
- In addition to what has been mentioned in the passage, what else do you know about table manners?
- Do you pay much attention to the way you dress? Why or why not?
- Can you think of any more meaningful questions about manners and customs?
- Role-play the following situation
  - Time: After dinner on the weekend
  - Place: Dr. Bradley's house
  - Characters: Yang Li, a Chinese student, who arrived at Stanford University two months ago; Dr. Bradley, Yang Li's adviser; Nancy, Dr. Bradley's wife; and Jena, their daughter, who is 15 years old and very curious about China.
  - Topic: Different customs and manners between the two cultures.