

British Manners and Etiquette

Post-session Reading and Vocab (higher)

Read the following extract from *The Telegraph*, then discuss the questions below:

Food for thought

As your grandma almost certainly told you - over and over - table manners are of utmost importance. Almost any **sin** will be forgiven if you know how to hold a knife correctly and don't reach across your neighbour's plate in search of the salt shaker. But what is considered polite in Britain is not **elsewhere**.

A clean plate might've pleased your mother, for example, but it is considered **dreadfully** rude in China, The Philippines and Thailand, as it suggests that the host has not offered you enough food. The Chinese will also think nothing of **belching** loudly after a meal to demonstrate their satisfaction to the cook.

Toasting is of vital importance in Georgia, meanwhile. They even have tamadas or "toastmasters" at special occasions, or supras, who will introduce every toast. Toasting can last for hours, with **strict** etiquette dictating who can speak and when to drink.

Questions

1. What is the rudest thing you can do at a Polish meal?
2. Do you usually talk whilst eating in your house, or eat in silence?
3. Do you think dinner should always be eaten at the table?
4. Does anyone in your family have bad table manners?

Vocabulary

Find these words in the text. What do you think they mean? Write your guesses in the table.

sin	
elsewhere	
dreadfully	
belching	
toasting	
strict	

Tips: Look at the spelling of the word and the words next to it. What type of word do you think it is?

e.g. noun, verb, adjective? Does it have a good, bad or neutral meaning? Is it connected to something else? Does your guess make sense in the context of the whole text?

When you have finished, check your answers in a dictionary. How close were your guesses?