

## Mind your manners guys on your first date

Going on a date tonight? Be it your first or fifth date most people would want to make a good impression. Wouldn't you? A recent survey published in Britain's *Daily Telegraph* newspaper said clicking your fingers at a waiter on a first date is faux pas. It was voted the rudest, attention-grabbing gesture - beating even drowning a dish in salt before even tasting it or getting drunk at the table. Other inappropriate acts which will insure the first date is the only date were licking the plate clean, burping & picking teeth with fingers. The poll of 3,000 people was conducted by internet market research company [www.onepoll.com](http://www.onepoll.com). "There are basic rules of etiquette which should be adhered to when eating out - and they're not hard to remember," a spokesman said adding, "The majority of respondents only expect basic good manners from their dining companions - so burping, coughing, breaking wind and obscenities are definitely off the menu." These are the manners of a pig.

The survey also found 63% of people could not bear to see the waiter being treated badly. Almost half of adults hated someone picking their teeth with their finger nails instead of using the toothpicks provided. Around 46% did not like watching someone nearby licking the knife instead of using their fork. And 38% said someone slurping soup was not on. The top 10 first date faux pas are: 1) Clicking fingers at the waiter. 2) Adding salt to the meal before tasting it. 3) Getting drunk. 4) Licking the plate clean. 5) Burping. 6) Picking teeth with fingers. 7) Licking the knife. 8) Slurping soup. 9) Talking about sex or bodily functions. 10) Not leaving a tip. Others to consider might be talking about a previous relationship, wolf whistling or speaking with your mouth full. Also eating with your mouth open, or eating your meal with your hands! Doggie bags should definitely be left at home. Not putting your knife and fork together when you have finished your meal isn't good manners nor is leaving the table until everyone has finished eating. So good manners chaps and respect!

**Category: Lifestyle / Etiquette / Dating**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate**

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## EXERCISES

1. **Going on a first date:** What is a date? When did you last go on a first date? How was it? Did it go ok? Go round the room swapping stories.

2. **Dictation:** The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - we need to do some work!

3. **Reading:** Get students to read the passage aloud. Swap readers every paragraph.

4. **Vocabulary:** Students look through the article. Underline/highlight any vocabulary you do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through & explain any words or phrases you do not understand.

5. **The article:** Students look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think of the top ten faux pas in the article?
- c) Have you been on a date when your partner did any of the things listed in the article?

6. **Before, during & after a date:** Think of two things a man might do before, during & after a date with a girl. List them below. With your partner discuss.

Before	During	After
1	1	1
2	2	2

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

7. **Quick debate:** In pairs. Student A thinks the first date is important. Student B thinks the second and third date is more important. Explain why.

8. **What not to do before & after a date:** Think of two things a man should never do before & after a date with a girl. List them below. Discuss and compare with your partner.

Before	After
1	1
2	2

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9. Consider the following: Look at the following. Which is worse? Discuss with your partner.

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1) The man has dirty fingernails                                    | 8) Not buying some roses     |
| 2) Not cutting your fingernails                                     | 9) Flirting with other girls |
| 3) Not taking a shower before a date                                | 10) Eating noisily           |
| 4) Not trimming your nasal hair                                     | 11) Being late for the date  |
| 5) Talking about yourself all night on the date                     |                              |
| 6) When getting the bill the man says, "I forgot my wallet."        |                              |
| 7) After the date asking, "Would you like to come in for a coffee?" |                              |

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10. Let's do 'The Article Quiz': Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score one point for each correct answer, and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

**Student A**

- 1) Name the newspaper.
- 2) What webpage is mentioned?
- 3) What did 63% of people find?
- 4) What did 46% of people not like?
- 5) What are the top three things not to do on a date?

**Student B**

- 1) What are the bottom three things not to do on a date?
- 2) Name three other things not to do on a date.
- 3) What should be left at home?
- 4) When should you leave the table?
- 5) What did almost half of adults hate?

11. On a first date...Think of two things YOU would do on a date.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|

12. Going on a date: Ask your partner the following:-

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Student A</b> |   |
| 1                | What does a guy expect on the first date?   |
| 2                | What are first date topics?   |
| 3                | What do guys expect on the second and third dates?  |
| 4                | Should the guy pay on the first date <i>or</i> should the girl pay <i>or</i> should you go Dutch? |
| 5                | Do guys want a 'porn star' or a girl next door?   |
| <b>Student B</b> |   |
| 1                | Should a girl ask a guy out?  |
| 2                | Are there any set rules for how a date should go?   |
| 3                | Are there any rules for single mums on a first date?  |
| 4                | How should I talk about my ex on a date?  |
| 5                | What should you wear?   |

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

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13. Flirting: Think of two different things people do when flirting.

1	2
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The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

14. The perfect location for a first date: Think of two perfect locations for a first date. These could be unusual or just the local pub. Discuss and compare them with your partner. Why these?

1	2
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The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

15. Sentence starters: Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) A first date \_\_\_\_\_
- b) A girl should \_\_\_\_\_
- c) A man should \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Good manners \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION

### Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Do you know anyone who has proposed on a first date?
- 3) Do you kiss your date on the lips on the first date?
- 4) What was your best date?
- 5) What does a woman want on a date?
- 6) Where is the most romantic place you had a first date?
- 7) Where is the best place you have had a date?
- 8) What was your worst date?
- 9) Are you 'an old romantic'?
- 10) If one didn't go on a date what might one do to meet a partner?

### Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you read?
- 2) When does sex come into the date?
- 3) What do you want out of a date?
- 4) Why go on a date?
- 5) What is your most memorable date?
- 6) Have you ever been on a date with a famous person?
- 7) Do expectations from people of a date vary from country to country?
- 8) What two traditional things are done in your country when on a date?
- 9) What is the most important thing about a date?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

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## GAP FILL: READING:

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

### Mind your manners guys on your first date

Going on a date tonight? Be it your first or fifth date most people would want to make a good \_\_\_\_\_. Wouldn't you? A recent survey published in Britain's *Daily Telegraph* newspaper said clicking your fingers at a \_\_\_\_\_ on a first date is \_\_\_\_\_. It was voted the rudest, attention-grabbing gesture - beating even drowning a dish in salt before even tasting it or getting drunk at the table. Other inappropriate acts which will insure the first date is the only date were licking the plate clean, burping & picking teeth with fingers. The poll of 3,000 people was conducted by internet market research company [www.onepoll.com](http://www.onepoll.com). "There are basic rules of \_\_\_\_\_ which should be adhered to when eating out - and they're not hard to remember," a spokesman said adding, "The majority of respondents only expect basic good \_\_\_\_\_ from their dining companions - so \_\_\_\_\_, coughing, breaking \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are definitely off the menu." These are the manners of a pig.

The survey also found 63% of people could not bear to see the waiter being treated badly. Almost half of adults hated someone picking their teeth with their finger nails instead of using the \_\_\_\_\_ provided. Around 46% did not like watching someone nearby licking the knife instead of using their fork. And 38% said someone slurping soup was not on. The top 10 first date faux pas are: 1) \_\_\_\_\_ fingers at the waiter. 2) Adding salt to the meal before tasting it. 3) Getting \_\_\_\_\_. 4) Licking the plate clean. 5) Burping. 6) Picking teeth with fingers. 7) Licking the knife. 8) \_\_\_\_\_ soup. 9) Talking about sex or bodily functions. 10) Not leaving a tip. Others to consider might be talking about a previous relationship, wolf \_\_\_\_\_ or speaking with your mouth full. Also eating with your mouth open, or eating your meal with your hands! \_\_\_\_\_ should definitely be left at home. Not putting your knife and fork together when you have finished your meal isn't good manners nor is leaving the table until everyone has finished eating. So good manners \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_!

*obscenities*

*wind*

*etiquette*

*burping*

*manners*

*impression*

*faux pas*

*waiter*

*respect*

*drunk*

*toothpicks*

*clicking*

*wolf*

*whistling*

*Doggie bags*

*chaps*

*slurping*

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## GAP FILL: LISTENING:

**Listen and fill in the spaces.**

### Mind your manners guys on your first date

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## PUT THE ARTICLE BACK TOGETHER

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- ( ) picking their teeth with their finger nails instead of using the toothpicks provided. Around 46% did not like watching someone nearby licking the knife instead of using their fork. And
- ( ) remember," a spokesman said adding, "The majority of respondents only expect basic good manners from their dining companions – so burping, coughing, breaking wind and
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## SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	burping	11	rudest
2	coughing	12	slurping
3	impression	13	definitely
4	gesture	14	faux pas
5	whistling	15	toothpicks
6	doggie bags	16	licking
7	inappropriate	17	obscenities
8	etiquette	18	knife
9	chaps	19	companions
10	relationship	20	remember

## ANSWERS

**GAP FILL: Mind your manners guys on your first date:** Going on a date tonight? Be it your first or fifth date most people would want to make a good **impression**. Wouldn't you? A recent survey published in Britain's *Daily Telegraph* newspaper said clicking your fingers at a **waiter** on a first date is **faux pas**. It was voted the rudest, attention-grabbing gesture - beating even drowning a dish in salt before even tasting it or getting drunk at the table. Other inappropriate acts which will insure the first date is the only date were licking the plate clean, burping & picking teeth with fingers. The poll of 3,000 people was conducted by internet market research company [www.onepoll.com](http://www.onepoll.com). "There are basic rules of **etiquette** which should be adhered to when eating out - and they're not hard to remember," a spokesman said adding, "The majority of respondents only expect basic good **manners** from their dining companions - so **burping**, coughing, breaking **wind** and **obscenities** are definitely off the menu." These are the manners of a pig. The survey also found 63% of people could not bear to see the waiter being treated badly. Almost half of adults hated someone picking their teeth with their finger nails instead of using the **toothpicks** provided. Around 46% did not like watching someone nearby licking the knife instead of using their fork. And 38% said someone slurping soup was not on. The top 10 first date faux pas are: 1) **Clicking** fingers at the waiter. 2) Adding salt to the meal before tasting it. 3) Getting **drunk**. 4) Licking the plate clean. 5) Burping. 6) Picking teeth with fingers. 7) Licking the knife. 8) **Slurping** soup. 9) Talking about sex or bodily functions. 10) Not leaving a tip. Others to consider might be talking about a previous relationship, **wolf whistling** or speaking with your mouth full. Also eating with your mouth open, or eating your meal with your hands! **Doggie bags** should definitely be left at home. Not putting your knife and fork together when you have finished your meal isn't good manners nor is leaving the table until everyone has finished eating. So good manners **chaps** and **respect!**

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