

The Well-Bred Boy;

Or,

New School,

Or

Good Manners

RULES OF CIVILITY AND DECENT BEHAVIOR IN COMPANY AND CONVERSATION.

1. "Every action in company ought to be with some sign of respect to those present.
2. "in the presence of others, sing not to yourself with a humming noise, nor drum with your fingers or feet.
3. "Sleep not when others speak; sit not when others stand; speak not when you should hold your peace; walk not when others stop.
4. "Turn not your back to others, especially in speaking; jog not the table or desk on which another reads or writes; lean not on any one.
5. "Be no flatterer; neither play with any one that delights not to be played with.
6. "Read no letters, books, nor papers, in company, but when there is a necessity for doing it, you must ask leave; come not near the books or writings of any one so as to read them, unless desired, nor give your opinion of them unasked; also, look not nigh when another is reading a letter.

7. "Let your countenance be pleasant, but in serious matters somewhat grave.
8. "Show not yourself glad at the misfortune of another, though he were your enemy.
9. "When you meet with one of greater quality than yourself, stop and retire, especially if it be at a door or any strait place, to give way for him to pass.
10. "They that are in dignity, or in office, have in all places precedency; but whilst they are young, they ought to respect those that are their equals in birth or other qualities, though they have no public charge.
11. "It is good manners to prefer them to whom we speak before ourselves, especially if they be above us, with whom in no sort we ought to begin.
12. "Let your discourse with men of business be short and comprehensive.
13. "In visiting the sick, do not presently play the physician, if you be not knowing therein.

14. “In writing or speaking, give to every person his due title, according to his degree and the custom of the place.

15. “Strive not with your superiors in argument, but always submit your judgment to others with modesty.

16. “When a man does all he can, though it succeeds not well, blame not him that did it.

17. “Being to advise or reprehend any one, consider whether it ought to be in public or in private, presently or at some other time, in what terms to do it; and in reproving, show no signs of choler, but do it with sweetness and mildness.

18. “Take all admonitions thankfully, in what time or place soever given; but afterward, not being culpable, take a place convenient to let him know it that gave them.

19. “Mock not, nor jest at any thing of importance; break no jests that are sharp-biting; and if you deliver any thing witty and pleasant, abstain from laughing thereat yourself.

20. “Wherein you reprove another, be unblamable [*sic*] yourself; for example is more prevalent than precepts.

21. “Use no reproachful language against any one, neither curse nor revile.

22. “Be not hasty to believe flying reports to the disparagement of any.

23. “In your apparel be modest, and endeavor to accommodate nature, rather than to procure admiration; keep to the fashion of your equals, such as are civil and orderly, with respect to times and places.

24. “Play not the peacock, looking every where about you to see if you be well-decked, if your shoes fit well, if your stockings set neatly, and clothes handsomely.

25. “Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for it is better to be alone than in bad company.

26. “Let your conversation be without malice or envy, for it is a sign of a tractable and commendable

nature; and in all causes of passion, admit reason to govern.

27. “Be not immodest in urging your friend to discover a secret.

28. “Utter not base and frivolous things amongst grave and learned men, nor very difficult questions or subjects among the ignorant, nor things hard to be believed.

29. “Speak not of doleful things in time

of mirth, nor at the table; speak not of melancholy things, as death, and wounds, and if others mention them, change the discourse, if you can. Tell not your dreams but to your immediate friend.

30. “Break not a jest where none takes pleasure; in mirth laugh not aloud, nor at all without occasion. Deride no man’s misfortunes, though there seem to be some cause.

31. “Speak not injurious words, neither in jest nor earnest; scoff at none, although they give occasion.

32. “Be not forward, but friendly and courteous; the first to salute, hear, and answer; and be not pensive when it is time to converse.
33. “Detract not from others, neither be excessive in commending.
34. “Go not thither, where you know not whether you shall be welcome or not. Give not advice without being asked, and when desired, do it briefly.
35. “If two contend together, take not the part of either unconstrained, and be not obstinate in your own opinion: in things indifferent, be on the major side.
36. “Reprehend not the imperfections of others, for that belongs to parents, masters, and superiors.
37. “Gaze not on the marks or blemishes of others, and ask not how they came. What you may speak in secret to your friend, deliver not before others.
38. “Speak not in an unknown tongue in company, but in your own language, and that as men of quality do, and not as the vulgar; sublime matters treat seriously.

39. “Think before you speak, pronounce not imperfectly, nor bring out your words too hastily, but orderly and distinctly.

40. “When another speaks, be attentive yourself, and disturb not the audience. If any hesitate in his words, help him not, nor prompt him, without being desired; interrupt him not, nor answer him, till his speech be ended.

41. “Treat with men at fit times about business, and whisper not in the company of others.

42. “Make no comparisons; and if any of the company be commended for any brave act of virtue, commend not another for the same.

43. “Be not apt to relate news if you know not the truth thereof. In discoursing of things you have heard, name not your author always; a secret discover not.

44. “Be not curious to know the affairs of others, neither approach to those who speak in private.

45. “Undertake not what you cannot perform, but be careful to keep your promise.

46. “When you deliver a matter, do it without passion, and with discretion, however, mean the person be you do it to.

47. “When your superiors talk to any body, hearken not; neither speak nor laugh.

48. “In disputes, be not so desirous to overcome, as not to give liberty to each one to deliver his opinion; and submit to the judgment of the major part, especially if they are judges of the dispute.

49. “Be not tedious in discourse; make not many digressions, nor repeat often the same manner of discourse.

50. “ Speak not evil of the absent, for it is unjust.

51. “Make no show of taking great delight in your victuals; feed not with greediness; lean not on the table, neither find fault with what you eat.

52. “Be not angry at table whatever happens, and if you have reason to be so, show it not; put on a cheerful countenance, especially if there be strangers, for good-humor makes one dish of meat a feast.

53. “Sit not yourself at the upper end of the table; but if it be your due, or that the master of the house will, contend not, lest you should trouble the company.

54. “When you speak of God, or his attributes, let it be seriously, in reverence. Honor and obey your natural parents, although they be poor.

55. “Let your recreation be manful, not sinful.

56. “Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire, called conscience.”