

FUMC ESL 10-3-2011

Etiquette at meals varies from one culture to another. Discuss the difference in manners between cultures you are familiar with. Use the questions below to guide the discussion.

1. When is it polite to pick up food with your hands?
2. Is there an order in which guests are seated or served?
3. How do you ask for one of the dishes? (i.e. in English-Pass the peas, please.)
4. Is it considered rude to leave food on your plate?
5. What do you do if something on your plate is repulsive to you.
6. What condiments are commonly on the table at a dinner party?
7. Is it common for children to be invited to a dinner party?
8. How many and what kind of utensils are used?
9. Are alcoholic beverages generally served? What types?
10. If I visited your country, what etiquette tips would you give me?

Talk about the following incidents you have experienced:

- most embarrassing dinner ever
- fanciest dinner ever
- most enjoyable dinner ever
- What famous people would you invite to your dinner party?

Explain these expressions that you might hear at a restaurant.

1. Is that to go or for here?
2. Hold the mayo, please.
3. I'll have a hot dog with the works.
4. I'll have a shake, she wants a soda and he'll have a smoothie.
5. Keep the change.
6. I didn't get any silverware.
7. We'll have the chocolate cake with a side of ice cream and two forks, please.
8. We will need a booster seat.
9. What are the specials tonight?
10. How is the fish prepared?
11. Can you validate my parking ticket?
12. Are any of these wines served by the glass?
13. I'm Ralph. I'll be your server tonight.
14. What's the soup of the day?
15. I'd like the house dressing please.
16. Say when!
17. What comes with the steak?
18. Will there be anything else?
19. Could we have separate checks, please?
20. Do you want everything on it?

Talk about these food idioms.

1. Jim wouldn't have a weight problem if he weren't such a couch potato.
2. I buttered up my dad before I asked him for the car keys.
3. Bill and his brothers are so different. You definitely got the cream of the crop when you picked Bill.
4. That exam was hard, how did you do? Piece of cake!
5. I don't know beans about repairing a car.
6. Jim thinks Shelly is the best thing since sliced bread.
7. I am doing a job I love. The fact that they are paying me well is just icing on the cake.

8. My goose is cooked if my mother finds out I lied.

Discussion:

1. Are you concerned about our daily calorie intake?
2. Do you ever skip breakfast?
3. Do you ever eat alone?
4. Are there foods that bring back special memories for you?
5. If you opened a restaurant, what kind would it be?
6. Do you have any food allergies?
7. What's the strangest thing you've ever eaten?
8. How does tipping compare here and in your country?
9. Did your mother effect the food choices you make now?
10. What cold foods do you like?
11. Describe your dream dinner.