



Essential Manners for Men: What to Do, When to Do It, and Why

Peter Post

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Essential Manners for Men helps men make the right decisions about what to do and say in every situation that counts. Peter Post, great-grandson of Emily Post, distills the essential information men need for all the important roles they play in life.

Organized into three parts -- "Daily Life," "Social Life," and "On the Job" -- *Essential Manners for Men* resolves situations that can stump even the savviest. Peter Post's advice is sharp-witted and sensible, with tips, boxes, and candid anecdotes about his own etiquette blunders. Topics include:

The most important behaviors to avoid and emulate at the gym, at work, on the golf course, at home, out with friends, at a business social event, and a child's ball game

Tipping, driver's "ed-iquette," introductions, sportsmanship, and parenting

Successfully sharing living spaces with a roommate, significant other, or spouse -- from the toilet seat to the remote control to the kitchen sink

How to throw a great party or be the perfect guest

How to successfully navigate the business dinner

Things men do wrong that make women wince, and things men do right that women love

The five-step process to resolve any situation where there is no etiquette "rule"

Short and shoot-from-the-hip honest, *Essential Manners for Men* is a book no man can afford to be without.

Essential Manners for Men: What to Do, When to Do It, and Why Details

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From Reader Review Essential Manners for Men: What to Do, When to Do It, and Why for online ebook

Nicholas Piva says

This book has proved wonders for me. Instead, of reading every part of it and highlighting the importance of some facets of the book, I only wrote down what I needed to work on. I am lucky for I have mastered most of men's etiquette. Probably due to my childhood and shyness as a kid, I never went flamboyant on any subject matter or dressed in a way to promote myself.

The first facet I need to work on is aggressive driving. I can drive fast, but never cutting others off. Never get mad in the car and always use your blinkers.

Another thing I need to keep account of is my writing, in which I love to do. Whenever writing an email or a note, always ensure you used proper grammar and spelling, for it says something about yourself and values.

Whenever you meet somebody for the first time stand up, and use their name as much as possible. Furthermore, when introducing someone, introduce the person to the more important person. Never say, "nice to meet you", say "name, it is a pleasure to meet you".

A weird thing to talk about, but don't scratch your private parts.

When you are in the stands for a athletic event, it is good to cheer. However, keep it positive, only jerks are the polar opposite.

Always take pride in your appearance, for it is the first impression. When it is just you and your girl, make her feel like the world and don't focus on others. Say "every other guy is going to be jealous me tonight". Always act confidently in any situation, show you are not dubious of any matter.

Always pay if you asked her out, however if she asked you out let her pay. When out to dinner, always ask before taking from somebody else's plate. When you are having guests over, talk to everyone of them and circulate the party. Make friends of all your guests.

Proper etiquette for the dinner table is that you place the fork on your left and spoon and knife on the right of your plate. Choose between continental style and American style of eating. If you need to leave your meal during a meal, fold your napkin so it is nice on the left side of your plate.

When you are a house guest it is imperative that you help out with chores. Also before leaving thank your host and then write up another letter showing your gratitude.

Flirting is acceptable as long as neither person is married or in a serious relationship. When meeting a girl always follow the direct approach, "Hi, my name is Nicholas".

When arriving for an event or interview, never be late. It is very rude and will be construed as offensive to your other party. The next salient factor in being a man of manners is to not bully anyone, everybody is a future connection of something. Never try to put somebody else down by harnessing a dominating demeanor and if in a argument partake in a non-personal arguments.

Another aspect is to never ignore somebody else's opinion. This is rude to shun others abilities. With that in mind, try not to interrupt somebody else if possible. You cannot take anything back, what you say in person or especially what you say to others digitally or by letters. Always speak clearly and use brevity with correct grammar. Grammar is quintessential for success and respect.

Do not speak to somebody if they are on the phone. Furthermore, have a voice mail which animates yourself with professionalism. Never gossip, nothing proves beneficiary about this vile act.

Overall, this was a good book. I knew much of these facets already due to my upbringing. I would recommend this book for it is a quick read and you could pick up some proper etiquette if you follow some of the tips.

Giuliano Zuan says

I wasn't too sure what to expect when I cracked open my hardcover copy of Essential Manners for Men. I knew it was about manners (for men), but I didn't know how it would be written and presented. Anyone can write a bulleted list of manners and rules of etiquette, but in order for the message in a book to be correctly delivered, it must be interesting and well organized. The author, Peter Post, did a very good job at laying out and organizing how the book would flow. In order to write his national bestseller, Mr. Post used research and statistics gathered by The Emily Post Institute. The book covers topics ranging from handshakes to tipping to job interviews. It is a well-rounded and interesting read that should be read by every man who's willing to make positive changes in his life.

Essential Manners for Men was a relatively quick and simple read. This was thanks to Mr. Post's clear and concise style of writing. The book was well written and touched upon many etiquette issues and things that men need to work on. Throughout the book, Mr. Post uses stories from his own life as examples of what to do and what not to do. These stories make the book more interesting and relatable. Mr. Post did a good job at making something that is often taught in long boring classes into something interesting and educational. Essential Manners for Men is a well written, interesting, and informative piece on men's behavior and proper manners and etiquette.

Essential Manners for Men covers a lot of different topics and areas in which men have flaws. The book asks men to reflect on what they do, and to consider how their actions affect those around them. As the book brought to light, there are a lot of little things than can really affect your relationships with people. Thoroughly cleaning up after you shave, staring at people, and attitudes in the workplace all really affect how you can interact with people.

Although many lessons are taught in the book, Mr. Post's main point was to remember the main three principles of etiquette. Those principles include consideration, respect, and honesty. Mr. Post made clear that proper etiquette is very simple. It is just being thoughtful towards others and thinking about the effects that your actions will have.

Essential Manners for Men had a lot of common knowledge information. That being said, there were many parts that I found interesting and informative. I would recommend this book to anyone who just wants to learn a little more about manners and etiquette or to anyone wanting advice on how to act in certain situations.

Don Incognito says

This book is helpful enough that you should buy a copy and expect to refer to it occasionally. Where it helped me the most is the etiquette of tipping. On one of my last dates, I was annoyed at the waiter's insufficiently attentive service, so I wanted to withhold any tip. My date insisted I tip him just because of servers' negligible pay. I did what she wanted, and eventually learned from this book that I was wrong and she was right; waiters and other people giving service should be tipped something whether they give good service or not, and the well-mannered response to poor service is to give a smaller tip.

Mohammad Ali Abedi says

“Essential Manners for Men” is written for sitcom husbands. That guy who is in his underwear drinking beer and won’t switch the channel because he loves football so much! *audience in the studio piss themselves LAUGHING* The subtitle of this book is “What to Do, When to Do It, and Why”. I was especially interested in the why, because it sounds interesting. Why should we do some of the things we are expected to do? As it turns out, the answer to the why is basically, because its respectable or because women love it. That’s basically it. I was hoping for some real, logical reason. For example, we are expected to hold doors for women, but maybe the why for it was that women had the tendency to smash right into doors due to their biologically proven weak visions.

That would have been interesting. But no. You have to hold doors because its expected.

The author is somehow stuck in the 50s and yet tries to be ultra-modern by telling us to listen to women and his 70 year old man’s hip advice on video games and SMS.

The book is supposed to be based on hard research, which is basically their institute’s shitty surveys on what women want. The thing is, women don’t know what they want. I’m not saying that men do, but women specially do not. We’re all idiots really, not much changed from our six year old self who’s wish is to eat all the candy they can get their hands on and then after our stomach hurts, realizing it wasn’t such a neat idea after all.

I’ll try to explain this by something from the book. The book has full of quotes from their survey to back up their shitty advice, but look at this great quote,

“Many workplaces may still be a ‘man’s domain’ but that doesn’t excuse you to treat women like second-class citizens. Whether you’re the CEO or the janitor, you’ll get a dazzling smile if you hold the door as you walk through or offer any other professional courtesy you’d offer to a man in the workplace. Not asking for more-just the same.”

Everything that is wrong with man-woman relationship in our generation is in that quote! If you are a woman and are reading that sentence and are thinking, “Huh? I don’t get it, that’s a perfectly fine sentiment” then you are part of the problem! You BITCH!

How can you ask us to hold the door for you as you walk through and then talk about not wanting more, just

the same? Are you holding the doors for us? Are you incapable of opening the fucking door and you need a strong Tarzan to do it for you? If door handling is such an important thing for you, fine, I'll open every door so none of you ever have to come in conduct with a door handle again, but please don't ask me to treat you like my male buddies, who are perfectly capable of interacting with doors without the need for a third-party person to do it for them.

The female gender needs to figure out what the fuck they want. You want special treatment or similar treatment. Similar treatment is how men treat each other and that means not holding chairs for each other and not going into a mental breakdown due to toilet seat status.

Sean says

Well intentioned, but pointless. Men who don't know by now that they should be holding doors for others and should refrain from belching in public aren't the type of men who typically read for pleasure. Much of the advice comes off as outdated at best, and misogynistic at worst. I finished it because it was quick and easy, but didn't gain anything from it and wish I hadn't wasted my time.

Ryan says

There's a strange dynamic at play in Peter Post's *Essential Manners for Men*. On the one hand, Post regularly calls on his readers to follow the essential manners. However, in this postmodern, globalized age, is anything "essential?" Perhaps not, but Post maintains that we should be considerate by remaining aware of social guidelines for behavior.

Still, I found it problematic that Post calls on us to be considerate, not because it's right, but rather because it can cost us if we are not. Isn't it crass to apply the logic of the marketplace to manners?

Post points out that if we break the rules in front of our clients, they are free to "take their business elsewhere, for whatever reason" -- including bad manners. I imagine this argument is stated at greater length in Post's other book, *The Etiquette Advantage in Business*.

This argument becomes more troublesome when Post begins to discuss male-female relationships. Though not directly stated, Post regularly organizes his call to action around the notion that women are free to "take their business elsewhere, for whatever reason." And you can bet that includes bad manners. It seems like bad manners to outline relationships using business analogies, though I'll admit that I'm not an expert.

Crass or not, I wonder how important -- and how uniform -- etiquette really is to women. For one thing, it's clear that the majority of the complaints Post shares come from women that live with their partner. I think it's fair to say that "business," to use the parlance of Post's book, is being transacted.

At best, what Post's complaints reveal is the way that we tend to focus on the negative. We tend to nitpick our partners for their faults rather than commending them for their achievements. Is that impolite?

Post regularly relies on the notion that men have poor etiquette and women tend to be better, and more

traditionally, mannered. I'm not saying this isn't true. It may well be true. Still, the pictures at the start of every chapter hearken back to the Jazz Age, suggesting that those were the days when men were "men," which also implies that those were the days when women were "women." I found myself wondering whether women are today generally better mannered than their male counterparts. Perhaps it is the gentleman's responsibility to argue that women are better mannered.

To make his arguments, Post relies on a poll conducted by the Emily Post Institute, and he often shares his "shocking" results. However, I couldn't help recalling Homer Simpson's famous claim that "statistics can be used to prove anything. 14% of people know that," particularly when I came across Post's argument that we (men) should modify our behavior because "one in seven women" disapprove of X and Y. Is one in seven really a persuasive statistic, or does it just sound like it should be? At other times, Post is on firmer ground, citing an 88% disapproval rating on this or that, but few of these results come as surprises. Don't we already read enough articles about putting down the toilet seat (and other mundane pet peeves) in the "Life" section of the newspaper?

Finally, Post's comments on public displays of affection had me laughing out loud. In a world of "sexting," Post worries about people kissing in public -- anything beyond a public peck is too much. Of course, "more than a peck" might be acceptable in Europe, Post suggests, where apparently "anything" goes -- especially in Italy and France.

So why bother reading *Essential Manners for Men*? After all, aren't the people most in need of a book on etiquette the ones that are least likely to read it? We are human beings and we make mistakes everyday. Certainly I do. So I'm always happy to return to the rule book, even if *Essential Manners for Men* wasn't the most impressive set of rules I've encountered.

Nevertheless, I wish I'd read this book, or perhaps a book like this but that doesn't ground its principles in cost/ benefits analysis, when I was 13, rather than in my late 20s.

Phillip.c.lacey says

An etiquette book for guys? C'mon.

Right off the bat, Peter Post, great-grandson of etiquette guru Emily Post, lets his readers know that the book explains how to be considerate and that etiquette need not be something that guys automatically dismiss.

Post offers both the rules of etiquette and the all important *why the rules exist. Guys, this will save you many unnecessary arguments and lectures, and will improve the way you are perceived by your partners. Ladies, this will help your partners be more mindful and appreciative of you and all that you do.*

Beyond that, it's a great book for social rules, table manners, business lunches, interviews, etc.

Sunny Yoo says

A must read for any man who wants to improve in his daily, social, and work life. The three principles of etiquette are consideration, respect and honesty.

He teaches me that:

"We don't do these things to get anything in return - we do them because we believe in their inherent value." Through our manners there is "A terrific opportunity to do things right, thus pleasing and impressing those you're with."

"These gestures are the mark of a man who is aware and respectful of the people around him."

I hope to exercise these practices daily in order to show the ones I love that I appreciate them and value them. To be caring and aware of how my actions affect all the people around me including strangers and impressionable children. It is our responsibility to improve the world we live in and the first start is essential manner.

Jonathan says

This was not a surprising book in its contents, but it was quick and interesting. Some reiterations that I think everyone can bear to be reminded of:

- * Etiquette is no more than Consideration, Respect, and Honesty for the other person. It is a social pattern that developed over centuries because it works to help people get along. When you act with etiquette, it gives the other person more trust in you, and in you more confidence.
- * When you interrupt someone, you are cutting that person off at the knees. Don't ever do it. Apologize if you do.
- * Be on time (in America and some other countries).
- * Talk slowly and use eye contact.
- * Introduce others in the most important to least important order.
- * Remember names.
- * Stand when meeting someone else, or if your dinner companion stands up at the table.
- * Stand up for the other guy and refuse to make deprecating conversations. Defend the honor of their significant other, date, or friend. Refuse to engage with men being juvenile. Show respect for different viewpoints.
- * Refuse to fight or argue. Let an intense debate be for one on one, not subjecting others to listen to it where they may disagree.
- * Be appreciative and attentive. Hold coats, elevators, doors and chairs for women. Carry packages and things.
- * Take pride in your appearance.
- * Foul language is not necessary.
- * Smile. When walking around have a pleasant look on your face, even if stressed out inside.
- * Do etiquette for all, not just to impress certain people.

Saydde says

I really, thoroughly enjoyed reading this book! Although I am a woman, I still gained quite a bit of insight as to how to act towards people from reading this "Men's" book. I'm incredibly interested in going back and reading more from the Emily Post Institute, and I even look forward to it!

This book is insightful for anyone who is interested in human behaviors, any age. The writing style was not as text-book style as one would assume from the title. The author's personal tales and views of how people

interact made the book feel more like I was having a conversation with Mr. Post right then and there!

-Sara Piant

Patrick Quinn says

Does exactly what it intends to do, with an emphasis on old prep (read: the New England approach).

If you're curious about what the old guard consider modern manners to be, this book is both more accessible and more readable than the traditional books. Like any self-improvement book, it's tenets should be taken as guidelines, and it's up to the reader to pick and choose which ideas to apply in their life, as well as how they intend to do so.

Dave says

This is written for every man who will not read it. It's for the obtuse public nut scratcher / adjuster that irritates all of the women in the world who are perfectly mannered.

I was hoping for a more timely set of topics like smartphone use, outdated practices (door holding, etc).

Mason Frierson says

In this triumph of principles over dogma, the great-grandson of Emily Post provides a practical, no-nonsense, research-based guide for any man wishing to improving his relations with others at home, work, or elsewhere. This aptly-titled book first boils all of etiquette down to one timeless principle from Emily Post, and the rest of the book couches the most common situations ("common" according to survey) in terms of this principle.

I had several epiphanies because this book explains WHY. Now I understand the *reason* for putting the toilet seat down, not using profanity, etc. These eye-openers were not what I expected and make the manners obvious so that there's nothing to remember. There is a simple discussion of staring (ogling) and how to avoid it, and it works!

The author acknowledges that etiquette does not apply everywhere. The two other books on men's manners I looked at were somewhat dogmatic and arbitrary, and this was the jewel.

Contrary to another review, the only mention of a vacation house and cricket is on pages 120-121 as a hypothetical example of something that the invited guest is UN-familiar with. For the record, I find Peter Post to be remarkably accessible and down-to-earth. He writes openly about passing gas, spitting, and other "small grossesses." (The message is HOW to do these things if you must, rather than just "don't do it.") I did not find any paragraph to be the least bit pretentious, condescending, snooty, or hoity-toity.

A man is more attractive when confident. This book triggered long-overdue changes in how others respond to me, and raised my dignity.

Darrell says

This book is NOT suppose to entertain, and yet I found it very entertaining. Post delves into situations and things that I would never this of. The bottom line is to be the one to make everyone at ease - - but we sometimes do not know how to go about that. This was a very nice book.

Affad Shaikh says

I have never gone to an "American, read White, Christian" wedding before. I would assume its the same as any other wedding, and therefore, I would cautiously attend, though I would feel awkward and out of place not knowing what exactly is going on and what expectations there might be of me. Watching TV you can pick up on so much of whats acceptable, however, given that there are so many variations its hard to find a safe norm. I am sure if White Christians tried to apply these normal standards of behavior to say a South Indian Jain wedding, they would create problems for themselves. Its safer to have some standard norms to go with, and for me, Mr. Post helps provide a reference point for those daily interactions and special occasions.

The book, I expected, was going to be a very long bullet list. However, it was not the case. The organization of the book kept the reading easy and quick and makes it easy for me to reference in the future quickly when the need arises. Its not an all together complicated book, after I read things I felt that they were common sense sort of ideas.

However, I think thats where the genius of the book lies. What I would consider as being common sense in a wedding situation, is in fact not. Being an immigrant that was raised in the US, I had the unique opportunity to exist in two separate cultures and create my own unique culture from the best of both of the cultures I came in contact with. That does not mean that I apply my own considerations to every point of contact I might make, to the contrary, I understood that I needed to know the "rules" in order to function properly in whatever environment I might be in. Thats why this book was a great read, it gives me some clear cut answers to things that I might be muddled about.

Finally, I am not sure that I liked the structure of the book being based around this survey that is referenced throughout. While the survey forms the outline for the contents of the book, I fear with each subsequent survey the focus of the book will have to change, therefore, my copy is not as "timeless" as I would hope it to be. But then again we live in a "post-modern" society, where everything is deconstructed, so what is the use of this book anyway?

It goes back to my personal experience of having to navigate cultures. Being capable of successfully navigating cultures, or having a cultural IQ, is critical to a man's future given the pace of globalization. in any cultural exchange the concepts of consideration, honesty and respect that are the underpinning of manners and etiquette apply. Here Post does a wonderful job in conveying the "why" of certain manners through anecdotes and through the survey.
