



ETIQUETTE IN FRANCE

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WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO LEARN ETIQUETTE?

- ❖ It's a matter of respecting a different culture and a different way of doing things.
- ❖ You don't want to look too out of place.





MEETING

- ❖ The handshake is a common form of greeting internationally.
- ❖ If friends they may greet each other by kissing on the cheeks, once on the left and once on the right.
- ❖ First names are only used among friends and family.
- ❖ Most people expect you to use the greeting term “**Bonjour!**” or “**Bonsoir!**”



*se faire
la bise*



DINING

- ❖ Arrive on time if you are invited to a French house for dinner.
- ❖ The further south you are in the country, time is much more flexible.
- ❖ When invited to a large dinner party you should send flowers the morning of so they can be displayed at the party.
- ❖ Dress well.



TABLE MANNERS

- ❖ Use the continental style: fork held in the left hand, knife in the right.
- ❖ Don't begin eating until the host says “ **Bon Appetite!**”
- ❖ If you are not done eating rest your knife and fork crossed over the plate with the fork on the plate.
- ❖ Finish everything on your plate.



Continental Style



DRESS

- ❖ Business dress is understated but stylish.
- ❖ What the French consider casual is not at all what Westerners consider casual.
- ❖ Men should dress in dark colors.
- ❖ Keep accessories of a good quality.



BODY LANGUAGE

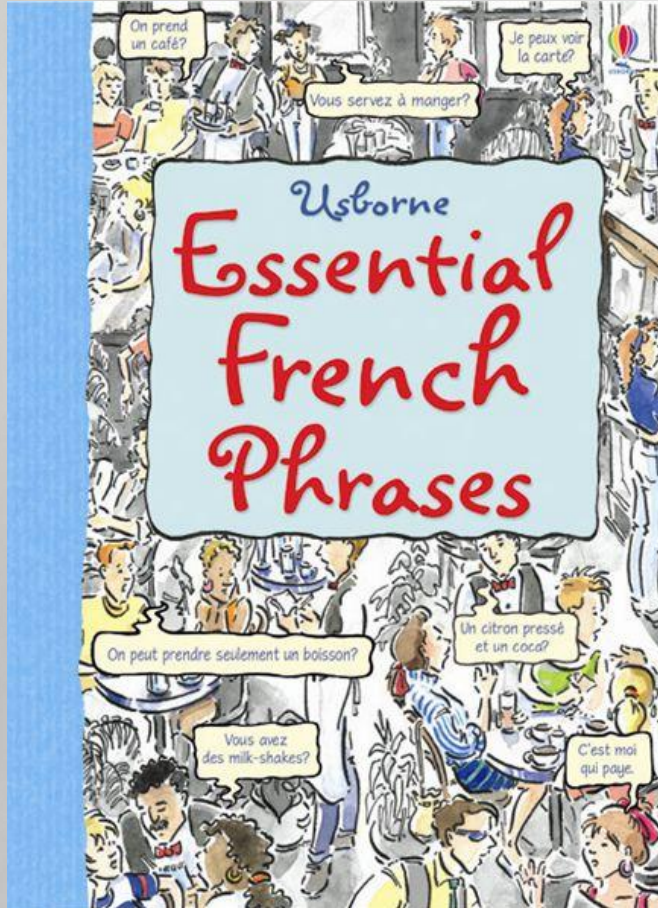
- ❖ Don't sit with your knees spread apart.
- ❖ Keep your hands out of your pockets.
- ❖ No yawning or scratching in public.
- ❖ Don't slap your palm over a closed fist as this is a vulgar gesture.
- ❖ The French use “thumbs up” to mean “okay”.





CONVERSATION

- ❖ Do not assume every French person is able or willing to speak English.
- ❖ The French will often ask personal questions, it indicates interest.
- ❖ If you don't speak French, an apology for a lack of knowledge is appreciated.
- ❖ Interruption is common in communication.



MANY AIDS
ARE
AVAILABLE IN
SPEAKING
FRENCH



RANDOM

- ❖ When driving you are allowed to insult other drivers.
- ❖ Avoid drinking hard liquor or smoking cigars before dinner, it compromises the taste of a meal.
- ❖ When giving flowers do not give 13, it is considered unlucky.



TEN THINGS NOT TO DO WHEN VISITING FRANCE

*Pretend you are an American visiting France this upcoming summer. What is acceptable here
is not always acceptable there!*

REFERENCES

- ❖ <http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/france-country-profile.html>
- ❖ http://www.understandfrance.org/French/Dos&Donts.html#anc_re42768
- ❖ <http://www.cyborlink.com/besite/france.htm>
- ❖ http://www.transitionsabroad.com/publications/magazine/0505/working_and_living_do_and_donts_in_france.shtml



TEN:

Do not dress in a flashy manner! The French value a well tailored appearance that is conservative. In the United States people like the dress in an over zealous manner and show off.



NINE:

Do not talk loudly. The French are often put off by the fact that Americans often shout when conversing.



EIGHT:

Don't lecture the French about things you consider "American". They don't like listening to loud Americans talk about things they consider strictly american: i.e. demoracy. Freedom, etc.



SEVEN:

Don't assume that everyone in France is willing to speak or knows English. If you attempt to speak French they will appreciate that you at least tried.



SIX:

Don't try to impress the French with your wealth. Status in France is not based on wealth, it is based on education, your work position, and who you socialize with.



FIVE:

Don't rush your meals. Sit back and enjoy them. The French consider food to be an art form and something that is to be appreciated. Sit down and enjoy meals whenever possible.

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FOUR:

Don't talk about only yourself in conversation. Americans are good at coming across as self obsessed. Ask the person you are talking to a few questions so you seem interested.



THREE:

Don't get obscenely intoxicated. This will make you look stupid, and also cause you to be loud and thus coming across as rude. The French do not drink to get drunk.



TWO:

Don't walk around wearing a beret.
The French don't wear them and you
look like an obvious tourist if you do.



ONE:

Don't be afraid of all the rules! The French are very willing to help you out as long as you show tact and respect. Look for subtle hints and try to follow the French and do as they do.