

Invisible Etiquette Rules That Southerners Practice Every Day

Just because they aren't talked about, doesn't mean you can ignore them.

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Most Southerners are taught from birth that they need to say please, [write thank you notes](#), put your napkin in your lap, and always [bring something to eat to a wake](#) (and a birth and to a new neighbor). A steady stream of parents, grandparents, teachers, camp counselors, and piano instructors have instilled in us the rules of proper behavior in polite society. However, some rules are less obvious than *don't eat birthday cake with your hands in front of your future mother-in-law* (unless you darn well feel like it). Some [rules of etiquette](#) are practically invisible, yet nearly just as important. That's why we are making a list of some of those nearly-unseen manners that Southerners practice every day to make the world run a little more pleasant.

- Have common courtesy
- Be hospitable
- Be honest
- Be respectful
- Be kind
- Be a good friend
- Don't be stingy with compliments
- Dinner table conversation should be inclusive, light, and friendly
- Know how to change the subject tactfully
- Introduce older people first
- [Cancel plans](#) only if there is an emergency (which does not involve Netflix and the sofa)
- Don't ask someone where they are from, just make them feel welcome
- Don't boast, brag, or show off
- Always offer visitors a seat and something to drink
- If an uninvited guest shows up at your shindig, make them feel welcome
- Make eye contact when you shake hands
- Always offer to help
- Learn to compromise
- Include everyone in your conversation at a gathering and circulate at a party
- Know how to make sweet tea
- Always RSVP after receiving an invitation, even if it's not requested
- Turn off your cell phone when entering a theater, church, or meeting
- Keep personal problems private, especially at another's expense
- Be sincere with your compliments
- Hold the door for anyone who needs a little extra help

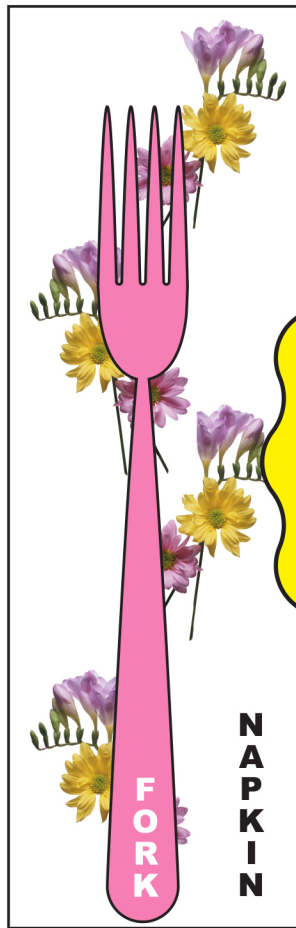
- Give your seat to people with disabilities, women who are expecting, and folks older than you
- Keep your promises
- Don't be tacky
- Know how to make one dish and one drink really well
- Don't laugh at other people's mistakes and if you do, at least pretend you're coughing
- Don't use your phone while having a real-life conversation
- Stay home from work, school, church, and parties if you're sick
- Wait until everyone is served before digging into your food
- No phones at the table, the cemetery, church, or at the movies
- Never show up empty-handed
- Feel free to break these rules but do it with good humor—and don't let your mother catch you

HAVE YOU EVER SAID THIS:

Mother to son: I'm warning you. If you fall out of that tree and break both your legs, don't come running to me!

A mother is trying to get her son to eat carrots. "Carrots are good for your eyes," she says. "How do you know?" the son asks. The mother replies, "Have you ever seen a rabbit wearing glasses?"

IF YOU WERE A FLOWER, WHAT WOULD YOU BE? WHY?



Research has proven that there are actually health benefits to receiving flowers.

Why don't they have Mother's Day sales? Because Mothers are priceless.

Mother's Day became a recognized holiday in 1914 in the United States.

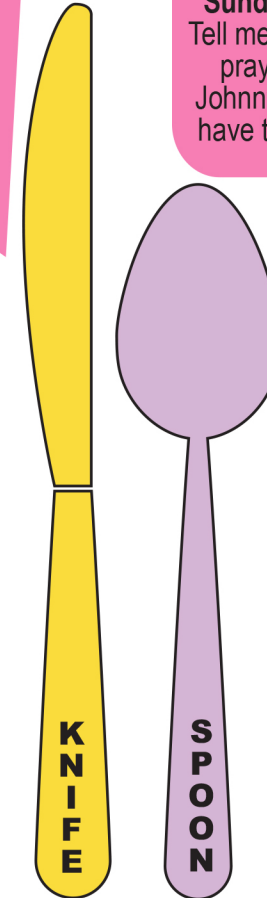
Mother's Day originated in the United States in the early 1900s. Although there are older traditions that celebrate similar holidays, they are not considered to be the origins of Mother's Day. Mother's Day is meant to honor mothers and their influence in society, maternal bonds and motherhood itself.



Daughter: Mom, what's it like to have the greatest daughter in the world?
Mom: I don't know dear, you'd have to ask Grandma.

The carnation is the flower most often associated with Mother's Day.

Sunday school teacher: Tell me, Johnny. Do you say prayers before eating?
Johnny: No, ma'am, I don't have to. My Mom's a good cook.



In 1870 a female activist, writer and poet by the name of Julia Ward (she wrote the "Battle Hymn of the Republic") suggested a day of peace and strongly advocated other women to stand up against the war. From this plea she was able to get Boston to recognize mothers on the second Sunday of June.

The first Mother's Day was celebrated in 1908. Anna Jarvis honored her mother Ann Jarvis with a memorial. Ann Jarvis had started a committee in 1868 to establish 'Mother's Friendship Day'. Her motivation had been to reunite families after the Civil War. She died in 1905, before Mother's Day became a holiday.



Why do Mothers have to have two visits to the optometrist? Because they also have eyes in the back of their head.

In Greek mythology spring festivals were held in honor of the maternal goddess called, Rhea. She was the wife of Cronus and was believed to be the mother of many deities. In 250 B.C. ancient Romans celebrated a spring festival called, Hilaria. This was dedicated to a mother goddess named, Cybele, on the Ides of March. Her followers would make offerings at the temple, hold parades, play games and also have masquerades. It lasted three days.

Mother: The amazing ability to hear a sneeze through 3 closed doors in the middle of the night, three bedrooms away... while Daddy snores next to you.

In most countries and languages, the word for mother begins with 'm'.