

Top Ten Business Dining Etiquette Tips

- 1. Arrive on time.
- 2. Introduce yourself to the people seated to either side of you and near you.
- 3. While, technically, you may order anything from the menu, avoid expensive outliers or market price items unless your host suggests them.
- 4. Don't drink at all or limit yourself to one alcoholic beverage.
- 5. Wait until your host has asked you to start eating or until the host starts eating.
- 6. Chew with your mouth closed and swallow before you speak.
- 7. Engage those around you in conversation. Be a good listener, and don't dominate the conversation.
- 8. Wait for your host to bring up business matters. It is up to him or her to discuss business.
- 9. Never use or check your smartphone while at the table. Your companions should have your undivided attention the entire time.
- 10. Thank your host twice: Once at the end of the meal, and then send a handwritten thank-you note the next day. If the meal was very casual, an email would be fine.

At Emily Post, we guide individuals and businesses in making a positive, professional impression that builds better, stronger relationships that are crucial to success.

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