

Sometimes people who come from other countries do not wear the same kind of clothes that we do. They look queer to us. Sometimes before they learn English well these foreigners pronounce words in a way that sounds funny to us, but we ought never to laugh. If we should go to a foreign country our clothes might look queer to the people who live there, and we certainly would make many blunders in learning their language. We should not like to be laughed at. Therefore, the right sort of people do not laugh at foreigners; they help them all they can and show them the respect that every boy and girl ought to show to every other boy and girl, no matter where they were born.



FIG. 7.—The right way to hold the knife and fork.

MANNERS AT THE TABLE.

We sometimes feel awkward and do not know how to behave at the table when we eat at the home of a friend or a stranger, or at a party. This may be because we have not practiced good table manners daily at home. Good table manners make our homes happier and are well worth while for that reason alone. No manners are too fine to use every day in home and school. The best are none too good for us. Emerson said, "Eat at your own table as you would eat at the table of a king."

When called to a meal, go at once. Tardiness at table shows carelessness and a lack of consideration for the hostess. When at home your mother is your hostess or lady of the house. Take your seat when the lady of the house takes hers, and rise when she gives

From: McNaught, Margaret Schallenberger.
Training in courtesy: suggestions for teaching
good manners in elementary schools.
Washington, D.C.: Govt. Print. Off., 1918.

the signal. If it is necessary to leave the table before the meal is over, say "May I be excused, please?" or, "Please excuse me."

Sit erect, not too close to, nor too far from the table.

You may place the napkin in your lap when you first sit down.

Keep your hands quietly in your lap until served. Do not handle your knife and spoon, or drum on the table, or fidget.

Show no impatience to be served. Never be in a hurry. There should be no reaching after things on the table. If servants are near, politely ask some one to pass the dish; as, "Will you be kind enough to pass the salt?" or simply, "Please pass the dessert." When anything is offered say "Thank you," when declined say "I thank you," or "Not any, thank you." If any dishes containing food are near you, do not help yourself and then put them down



FIG. 8.—The wrong way to hold the knife and fork.

but *before serving yourself* pass the dish to the one sitting next to you, saying, "Will you have some jelly?" or, "Shall I pass you the nutmeg?" Think constantly of others at the table rather than of yourself. Try to see that they are well served.

Do not be selfish. It is very ill-mannered, when there is any choice of food, to pick over everything on the plate to get the largest and choicest for yourself.

The elbows should be kept near the sides. Do not spread the table with your cutting meat or other food.

Every movement at the table should be made as quietly as possible. Moving the feet, leaning upon the table, or clattering knives, forks, and dishes shows ignorance of table manners.

Eat slowly. Do not fill the mouth too full. Chew your food *and chew it with the mouth shut*. Do not smack the lips in eating.