

Social Etiquette in the USA Are you planning to visit the U.S. in the near future? Since every country has its own set of "dos" and "don'ts", it's worthwhile to find out just what it means to be polite before getting on that plane. Here are a few of the most important rules of behavior.

1 If you are meeting someone for the first time, extend a hand to say hello. Americans greet each other with firm handshakes. Kissing on the cheek is rare, but hugs are not unusual between friends or relatives. Also, it is important to make eye contact while speaking with someone; otherwise you will seem rude or insincere. Use titles, such as "Dr."

2 Have you ever been to the U.S.? Using your index finger to point at someone is impolite: instead, extend your entire hand, palm facing up. Americans like to give wide smiles, even to strangers! Banks") if you aren't sure if she is married or not.

2 When Americans ask how you are, they don't expect a long reply about your recent headaches or your sore throat. is a typical greeting that asks for a simple answer such as "I'm fine." You may compliment a person on their new haircut or shirt, but never tell someone that they look tired or unwell unless you are really afraid that they may be ill. Also, never talk loudly on a cellphone in public, and be aware that some

38 Check these words consider taking a phone call during mealtimes to be extremely rude.

3 Giving a peace sign, thumbs up, or okay sign are all positive gestures. Do you know the dos and don'ts of American etiquette? Smith" or "Mr. Norris", to show respect, unless someone invites you to use their first name. In the U.S., a smile is a sign of friendliness and even politeness.

4 Sharing a meal with Americans shouldn't be a stressful event. If someone invites you over for a meal, bringing a small gift, like flowers, is a nice token of thanks.

2 Match the headings to the paragraphs. A Learn the Gestures B Make Small Talk C Thank your Host D Say Hello E Dine with Ease Don't ask someone how much money they make or how much money they've spent on something. "How are you?"..