

# Mastering the Magic: Modern Manners for Social Superstars

## Lesson Overview

**Target Age:** 11 Years Old (Grade 5-6)

**Duration:** 60-90 Minutes

**Theme:** Manners aren't about "being perfect"; they are social "superpowers" that help people feel comfortable and respected.

## Materials Needed

- A dinner plate, salad plate, bowl, fork, knife, spoon, and napkin
- A glass or cup
- Index cards or small slips of paper
- A "mystery snack" (something small like crackers or fruit)
- A smartphone or tablet (optional, for digital manners discussion)
- "The Etiquette Challenge" Worksheet (can be hand-drawn)

## Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, Olivia will be able to:

- Explain the "Golden Rule" of etiquette (making others feel at ease).
- Demonstrate a confident introduction using the "S.S.E." method (Smile, Speak, Eye Contact).
- Correctly set a basic dinner table and identify "tricky" table behaviors.
- Apply digital manners (Netiquette) to text and email scenarios.

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## 1. The Hook: The "Awkward Party" (5 Minutes)

**Scenario:** Ask Olivia to imagine she just walked into a birthday party where she doesn't know anyone. Everyone is whispering, someone is chewing with their mouth open, and nobody says hello. How does she feel? (Wait for response: likely "uncomfortable" or "awkward.")

**The "Why":** Explain that manners are like a secret code. When everyone knows the code, everyone feels safe and happy. Manners are actually an act of kindness!

## 2. "I Do": The Science of First Impressions (10 Minutes)

**Concept:** Introductions. First impressions happen in just 7 seconds!

**Instruction:** Teach the **S.S.E. Formula:**

- **S - Smile:** It shows you are friendly.
- **S - Stand & Speak:** Stand up to show respect and say your name clearly.
- **E - Eye Contact:** It shows you are paying attention and are honest.

**Teacher Model:** Model a "bad" introduction (mumbling at the floor) vs. a "superstar" introduction (using S.S.E.). Ask Olivia to spot the differences.

### 3. "We Do": Introduction Role-Play (15 Minutes)

**Activity:** Use index cards to write down "Personas" (e.g., A New Neighbor, The Queen of England, A Famous YouTuber, Your Best Friend's Dad).

**Practice:** Olivia must introduce *you* to one of these characters. *Example:* "Mom/Teacher, I'd like you to meet my neighbor, Mr. Henderson. Mr. Henderson, this is my mom."

**Check for Understanding:** Did she use the S.S.E. formula? Did she introduce the "older/more senior" person first? (A great pro-tip for 11-year-olds!)

### 4. "You Do": The Tableware Puzzle (20 Minutes)

**Instruction:** Use the "FORKS" trick to remember table settings. From left to right: **F** (Fork), **O** (the plate is the 'O'), **R** (none), **K** (Knife), **S** (Spoon).

**Activity:** 1. Give Olivia the mixed-up pile of dishes and cutlery.

2. **The Challenge:** Set a formal place setting using the "FORKS" trick.

3. **The Snack Test:** Provide the snack. Practice the "Napkin Rule" (on the lap immediately) and the "Bread Rule" (break off one bite-sized piece at a time, don't eat the whole roll like a sandwich).

**Success Criteria:** The knife blade must face the plate, and the napkin must be on the left or on the plate.

### 5. Modern Twist: Netiquette (15 Minutes)

**Discussion:** Since Olivia is 11, she is likely starting to use more digital tools. Discuss 3 "Golden Rules of the Screen":

1. **The Grandma Rule:** Don't text or post anything you wouldn't want your grandma to read.
2. **The "Caps Lock" Rule:** Typing in all caps is the digital version of screaming!
3. **The "Phone-Free Zone":** When someone is talking to you in person, the phone stays face down or in a pocket.

**Formative Assessment:** Give her a "Bad Text" example: "HEY WHY DIDNT U CALL ME BACK?????" Ask her to rewrite it to be polite and effective.

### 6. Conclusion & Recap (5 Minutes)

**Summary:** Ask Olivia to name the three parts of the S.S.E. introduction and the "FORKS" trick.

**The Final Takeaway:** "Manners are not about being stiff or fancy. They are about making the people around you feel like they matter."

## Assessment & Extension

**Summative Assessment:** Olivia will "host" dinner tonight. She is responsible for setting the table correctly and initiating one polite "table talk" question to everyone dining (e.g., "What was the most interesting part of your day?").

### Differentiation:

- *Scaffolding:* Provide a printed "Table Map" for her to follow during the activity.
- *Extension:* Research how people say "hello" in three different cultures (e.g., bowing in Japan, the "Hongi" in New Zealand) and practice those.