

Are you the nation's worst dinner party guest? Britain's most hated dining habits revealed

- **New research reveals the ten most offensive things you can do at a dinner party**
- **Using your phone at the table is crowned the worst dinner party habit**
- **Take this quiz to find out if you are the perfect dinner party guest**

From using your phone at the table to talking with your mouth full, a new poll reveals the bad habits which could make you the nation's worst dinner party guest. It also highlights which traditional dinner table rules need to be reviewed.

New research from online furniture retailer, FurnitureChoice.co.uk, reveals which dining habits make the nation tick, and how many of us are guilty of committing these dinner party faux pas.

The top ten things hosts find offensive at their dinner parties are:

1. Guests having/using their phone at the table (59%)
2. Guests talking with their mouth full (57%)
3. Guests eating with their mouth open (55%)
4. Guests spitting out food that is difficult to swallow e.g. Cartilage or chewy meat (45%)
5. Guests eating off or licking their knife (37%)
6. Guests beginning to eat before everyone has been served (32%)
7. Guests tilting in their chair (28%), Reaching across people at the table (28%)
8. Guests licking their fingers (24%)
9. Guests leaving the table during the meal (20%)
10. Guests putting their elbows on the table (15%), Guests seasoning their food with salt before tasting (15%)

Delving into the most offensive habits, the smartphone activities which bug dinner party hosts the most are FaceTiming/video calling someone whilst at the dinner table (72%), using social media (70%) and texting at the table (69%).

When it comes to being the perfect dinner party guest, many Brits would fall short of the rules outlined in many traditional dining etiquette guides as one in five (19%) would happily sit with their elbows on the table, and more than one in ten (12%) think it's acceptable etiquette to salt their food before tasting it.

Perhaps worst of all, 12% would happily lick their fingers clean and 11% would even leave the table halfway through the meal.

One of the easiest traits to nail down as a dinner party guest is how to sit at the table and 61% of the nation correctly identified the ideal seating position, based on etiquette guides, to be with their feet flat on the floor. Just over half of Brits (51%) knew that their hands should be placed on their lap when they aren't eating, drinking or talking. However, only 28% knew their hands should be level with their knife and fork when not in their lap.

But it's not just your seating position and table manners which should be considered. How you choose to eat different items of food is also outlined in many etiquette guides. A huge 89% of the nation wasn't aware that the correct way to eat asparagus appetisers is with their hands, while 83% didn't know mussels should be eaten by using the first mussel shell to pick the meat out for the remainder. Although these traditionally formal foods may not be present on modern-day dinner party menus, half of Brits (50%) admitted they know it's not acceptable to eat more informal foods such as pizza or burgers at the table with their hands when in a dinner party setting.

Rachel Muse, Private Chef and Director of Talk Eat Laugh commented on the research: "A dinner party is a social gathering so it's about socialising with that group of people. As a guest, you need to fit in. As the host, you need to pick a good mix of people to come to the event and be relaxed so that the guests feel at ease. Before the event, you can brief guests to explain that this particular event is going to be more or less formal than your usual events, which should help with their understanding of what behaviour will be tolerated or called out.

"My top tips for any dinner party guest would be to fit in and socialise. Try to talk to everyone at the event and if you arrive at an issue you disagree on, politely agree to differ. Don't drink significantly more than everyone else, if you do, go home. Any other single incident of lack of manners (talking with your mouth full or taking a single, short phone call or sending a text) is excusable. It's the repeat behaviour that isn't."

"When it comes to more formal occasions, it's important to remember that you have primarily been invited for your personality and for the fact that you are good company. Once you sit at the table at a formal event, one must sit beautifully and not leave the table. One must have entertaining conversation and follow all the 'classic manners' (no phones, no elbows etc). Keep your eye on the host(s) to see if they are giving you 'a look' due to overstepping a line. It's also important to keep an eye on the host to see if things are becoming more relaxed. Often at the end of the formal sit down meal, ties are loosened and the brandy comes out, signifying the start of the informalities."

Commenting on the findings, Interior Style Advisor at [FurnitureChoice.co.uk](https://www.furniturechoice.co.uk), Rebecca Snowden says: "Although some of the traditional dining etiquette guides appear outdated, the same principles should be

applied in 2019 with both guests and hosts taking their surroundings and other dinner party guests into consideration. With modern day distractions such as mobile phones and more informal menu choices thrown into the mix, it can be difficult to stick to the traditional etiquette rules, indicating that these may need updating to reflect the more relaxed dinner party setting of today.”

To find out if you're the perfect dinner guest or host, take the dining etiquette quiz here:

https://www.furniturechoice.co.uk/advice-and-inspiration/are-you-the-perfect-dinner-party-guest_a10000039

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Founded in 2005, [FurnitureChoice.co.uk](http://www.furniturechoice.co.uk) is an independent furniture retailer. The company combines a deep knowledge of contemporary furniture manufacturing with first-class e-commerce expertise.

With a dedicated UK call-centre and an experienced quality control team in Asia, [FurnitureChoice.co.uk](http://www.furniturechoice.co.uk) is able to offer customers the greatest variety of high quality contemporary furniture and best-in-class customer service, backed-up with fast, free delivery and returns. To find out more visit <http://www.furniturechoice.co.uk/about-us/>.