

Top Ten Table Manners

1. Chew with your mouth shut.
2. Avoid slurping, smacking, blowing your nose, or other gross noises. (If necessary, excuse yourself to take care of whatever it is you need to take care of.)
3. Don't use your utensils like a shovel or as if you've just stabbed the food you're about to eat.
4. Don't pick your teeth at the table.
5. Remember to use your napkin at all times.
6. Wait until you're done chewing to sip or swallow a drink. (The exception is if you're choking.)
7. Cut only one piece of food at a time.
8. Avoid slouching and don't place your elbows on the table while eating (though it is okay to prop your elbows on the table while conversing between courses.)
9. Instead of reaching across the table for something, ask for it to be passed to you.
10. Always say 'excuse me' whenever you leave the table.

Under formal circumstances it's correct to leave the fallen utensil where it fell on the floor for the waitstaff to pick up. In a restaurant, I would nudge it under the table so that no one trips on it. The reason we have this rule is to avoid placing a utensil that has been contaminated by the germs on the floor onto the surface where others are dining.