

The etiquette rules below are taken from real books explaining to Victorian women how they should behave in a variety of situations.

To be truly polite, remember you must be polite at all times, and under all circumstances.

Be careful always to speak in a distinct, clear voice; at the same time avoid talking too loudly, there is a happy medium between mumbling and screaming. Strive to attain it.

Do not accept an invitation to visit any place of public amusement, with a gentleman with whom you are but slightly acquainted, unless there is another lady also invited. You may, as a young lady, go with a relative or your fiancée, without a chaperon, but not otherwise.

Avoid movement at the piano. Swinging the body to and fro, moving the head, rolling the eyes, raising the hands too much, are all bad tricks, and should be carefully abstained from.

No young lady should go to a ball, without the protection of a married lady, or an elderly gentleman.

Never read in company. You may open a book to look over the engravings, if you will, but do not attend to the letter-press until you are alone.

Never present a gentleman to a lady without first asking her permission to do so.

A lady who desires to pay strict regard to etiquette, will not stop to gaze in at the shop windows.

Do not take a child with you to pay calls, until it is old enough to behave quietly and with propriety.

Sit easily in your chair, neither too near the table, nor too far from it, and avoid such tricks as putting your arms on the table, leaning back lazily in your chair, or playing with your knife, fork, or spoon.

If you wish to be a well-bred lady, you must carry your good manners everywhere with you.

To listen well is almost as great an art as to talk well. It is not enough only to listen. You must endeavour to seem interested in the conversation of others.

You are not expected to recognise any friend on the opposite side of the street. Even if you see them, do not bow.

Never, when at the home table, leave it until the other members of the family are also ready to rise.

Never make a noise in eating. To munch or smack the lips are vulgar faults.

The etiquette rules below are taken from real books explaining to Victorian women how they should behave in a variety of situations.

In order to converse agreeably and intelligibly, a lady should cultivate her intellect, not with the idea of becoming a blue-stocking or a pedant, but to render her society pleasant and profitable to others.

Never stop to speak to a gentleman in the street. If you have anything important to say to him, allow him to join and walk with you, but do not stop. It is best to follow the same rule with regard to ladies, and either walk with them or invite them to walk with you, instead of stopping to talk.

If your friend is at home, after sending your card up to her by the servant, go into the parlour to wait for her. Sit down quietly, and do not leave your seat until you rise to meet her as she enters the room. To walk about the parlour, examining the ornaments and pictures, is ill-bred. It is still more unlady-like to sit down and turn over to read the cards in her card basket. If she keeps you waiting for a long time, you may take a book from the centre-table to pass away the interval.

Persons who have met at the house of a mutual friend, without being introduced, should not bow if they afterwards meet elsewhere. A bow implies acquaintance; and persons who have not been introduced are not acquainted.

Loud talking and laughing in the street are excessively vulgar. Not only this, but they expose a lady to the most severe misconstruction. Let your conduct be modest and quiet.

We presume it is scarcely necessary to remind our fair reader that she is never, under any circumstances, to convey her knife to her mouth. Peas are eaten with the fork; tarts, curry, and puddings of all kinds with the spoon.

It is best at a ball, to dance only every other dance, as over-fatigue, and probably a flushed face, will follow too much dancing. Decline the intermediate ones, on the plea of fatigue, or fear of fatigue.

No woman is fitted for society until she dances well; for home, unless she is perfect mistress of needlework; for her own enjoyment, unless she has at least one accomplishment to occupy thoughts and fingers in her hours of leisure.

Wear no jewelry in the street excepting your watch and brooch. Jewelry is only suited for full evening dress, when all the other details unite to set it off. If it is real, it is too valuable to risk losing in the street, and if it is not real, no lady should wear it. Mock jewelry is utterly detestable.

Now, my friend, do not swing your arms. You don't know what to do with them? Your parasol takes one hand; hold your dress up a little with the other. Not so! No lady should raise her dress above the ankle.













If you have occasion to look at your watch during a call, ask permission to do so, and apologise for it on the plea of other appointments.













Unmarried ladies may not accept presents from gentlemen who are neither related nor engaged to them. Presents made by a married lady to a gentleman can only be offered in the joint names of her husband and herself.

Remember that every part of your person and dress should be in perfect order before you leave the dressing-room, and avoid all such tricks as smoothing your hair with your hand, arranging your curls, pulling the waist of your dress down, or settling your collar or sleeves.

When you cannot agree with the propositions advanced in general conversation, be silent. If pressed for your opinion, give it with modesty. Never defend your own views too warmly. When you find others remain unconvinced, drop the subject, or lead to some other topic.

Let your style of dress always be appropriate to the hour of the day. To dress too finely in the morning, or to be seen in a morning dress in the evening, is equally vulgar and out of place.

 <p>Which of these etiquette rules do you think is the most sensible?</p>	 <p>Which of these etiquette rules do you think is the strangest?</p>	 <p>What impression of women's lives do you get from these etiquette rules?</p>
 <p>Which of these rules do you live by?</p>	 <p>If you had to enforce one of these rules today, which one would it be and why?</p>	 <p>How good are you at 'being polite at all times and in all circumstances'?</p>
 <p>Why do you think women were not allowed to read when other people were in the room?</p>	 <p>Why do you think unmarried women were not allowed to go out with a gentlemen without an escort?</p>	 <p>Do you think all women in Victorian Britain lived by these rules?</p>
 <p>How well do you think you would have done in society if you were a Victorian middle-class woman?</p>	 <p>Why do you think stopping to look in shop windows was frowned upon?</p>	 <p>Are there any of these etiquette rules which would be seen as rude today?</p>

 <p>Which of these etiquette rules do you think is the most sensible?</p>	 <p>Which of these etiquette rules do you think is the strangest?</p>	 <p>What impression of women's lives do you get from these etiquette rules?</p>
 <p>Which of these rules do you live by?</p>	 <p>If you had to enforce one of these rules today, which one would it be and why?</p>	 <p>How good are you at 'being polite at all times and in all circumstances'?</p>
 <p>Why do you think women were not allowed to read when other people were in the room?</p>	 <p>Why do you think unmarried women were not allowed to go out with a gentlemen without an escort?</p>	 <p>Do you think all women in Victorian Britain lived by these rules?</p>
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Read the etiquette rules that middle- and upper-class Victorian women had to live by, then answer these questions.

1. Which of these rules do you think is the most sensible and why?

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2. Which of these rules do you think is the strangest and why?

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3. What do you think are three important characters traits for a Victorian woman?

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4. Name three things that were rude for a Victorian woman to do at the dinner table:

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5. Why do you think young ladies were not supposed to gaze in shop windows?

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6. Why do you think women were not allowed to go places with a gentlemen without an escort?

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7. Are there any of these etiquette rules which would be seen as rude today?

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8. If you could enforce one of these rules today, which would it be and why?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Read the etiquette rules that middle- and upper-class Victorian women had to live by, then answer these questions.

1. Which of these rules do you think is the most sensible and why?

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2. Which of these rules do you think is the strangest and why?

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3. Name three rules women had for how they should behave if they were in the street:

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4. Why do you think looking at your watch during a call was seen as bad manners?

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5. What do these etiquette rules say about a woman's intellect?

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6. Name three accomplishments a young lady should have if she is to succeed in society:

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7. If you could enforce one of these rules today, which would it be and why?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Date of birth:

Date of death:

Family and early life:

Education:

Achievements:

Obstacles:

Interesting facts:

What can you find out about...?

## Jane Austen



When did Jane Austen live?

What was her family background?

What kind of education did she receive?

What did she achieve?

What obstacles did she face in her life?

What can you find out about...?

## Mary Wollstonecraft



When did Mary Wollstonecraft live?

What was her family background?

What kind of education did she receive?

What did she achieve?

What obstacles did she face in her life?

What can you find out about...?

## Charlotte Brontë



When did Charlotte Brontë live?

What was her family background?

What kind of education did she receive?

What did she achieve?

What obstacles did she face in her life?

What can you find out about...?

## Florence Nightingale



When did Florence Nightingale live?

What was her family background?

What kind of education did she receive?

What did she achieve?

What obstacles did she face in her life?



What can you find out about...?  
**Elizabeth Fry**



When did Elizabeth Fry live?  
What was her family background?  
What kind of education did she receive?  
What did she achieve?  
What obstacles did she face in her life?

What can you find out about...?  
**Ada Lovelace**



When did Ada Lovelace live?  
What was her family background?  
What kind of education did she receive?  
What did she achieve?  
What obstacles did she face in her life?

What can you find out about...?  
**Mary Ann Evans**



When did Mary Ann Evans live?  
What was her family background?  
What kind of education did she receive?  
What did she achieve?  
What obstacles did she face in her life?

What can you find out about...?  
**Elizabeth Garrett Anderson**



When did Elizabeth Garrett Anderson live?  
What was her family background?  
What kind of education did she receive?  
What did she achieve?  
What obstacles did she face in her life?