

Lesson 2

Etiquette Netiquette

- A. Read the following statements. Whose statement do you like the most? Why? How do you feel about the others?**

<p>Kristi <i>When I attend any wedding or birthday party, I always wait for the food. As soon as the food is served, I take my portion and immediately after I've finished, I leave. I have no time to wait for others. Besides, I don't know others, so why wait?</i></p> <p>Sayem <i>I live in a flat in a ten storied building in Dhaka. In the lift, I often see my neighbours. I seldom exchange greetings with them. They are neither my friends nor relatives. Some people may not like it, but who cares?</i></p> <p>Monju <i>I love driving my car at high speed and blowing horns. It's others' responsibility to make room for me. My car is very expensive! Sometimes I am annoyed by other vehicles. They ignore my honking!</i></p> <p>Abir <i>I'm very special at home. My parents and other members of my family do everything as I desire. From food to furniture- everything goes by my choice.</i></p>	<p>Mim Hla <i>I'm a free-will agent. I don't mind expressing my own opinions or intervening even when my elders are speaking to themselves.</i></p> <p>Topon <i>That day one of my teachers forbade me to shake my legs. I don't know what is wrong with it. I also don't think I need to say 'thank you' and 'please' every time I take a service or gift from someone. Gratefulness lies in the heart. Why do you need to express it?</i></p> <p>Bidhan <i>My father always asks my grandma what to buy when going for weekly grocery. My mom also asks her what to cook. And we never go anywhere keeping my grandma alone. I love her so much.</i></p> <p>Bokul <i>I'm very choosy about the food that I eat. When I visit someone and find different types of food on the dining table, I never take any food that I don't like. Even when I'm asked to take the food I say – I won't take it as I don't like it. After all, it's my choice.</i></p>	<p>Tinku <i>My friend, Nabila, is addicted to Facebook. Even when she attends classes or visits any social program, she never lets a second go without visiting Facebook. She never speaks to others and rarely makes eye contact with anyone around her.</i></p> <p>Kanta <i>I don't like social network media as people are very showy there. Sometimes they post items that I don't feel like seeing. I always remember that social network media steal our time which we can give to our study.</i></p> <p>Shayeri <i>When I'm online or on any social networking site, I have liberty. So I express my own ideas as I like. If I read or see something that does not go with my choice, I take a hand. Since no one sees me face to face, I enjoy my liberty.</i></p> <p>Shammi <i>My Facebook account is mine. Who are you to tell me what I should post, what language I should use, or what opinion I should express!</i></p>
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B. Read the following statement.

“I make a distinction between manners and etiquette. Manners as the principles, which are eternal and universal, etiquette as the particular rules which are arbitrary and different in different times, different situations, different cultures.”

- Judith Martin

Work in pairs and identify which statement in Section A is related to manners and which one to etiquette.

C. Below you will see parts of a story told by a Spanish writer, Pedro Pablo Sacristán. Work in pairs and reorganize them to a cohesive text. When you have finished, set a title of the story.

The machine started working and it gave the man complete satisfaction. People from their long practice would try to say – thank you, so kind of you, my pleasure, don't mention it etc. as to appreciate others or express gratitude. But their tongue could not produce these words. The machine caught them. It resulted in a huge change in people's behaviour and attitudes. Gradually people became rough and tough, they lost their mental cool, they were blaming each other or fighting with each other. They became so selfish that they started refusing to help others without having a return for their service. Love, respect, affections, fellow feelings became some unknown words and, eventually, they were missing from people's practices.

The man was terribly happy with his success, but he didn't count on two little girls of special needs. They had speech difficulty and so they used to communicate using sign language. Since the machine couldn't steal gestures, these girls continued their previous practices of being kind and polite. Soon they realised the difference between them and other people which led them to investigate the reason. After much toil, they could discover the wicked man, who was in a hide out on the top of a hill next to the sea with his enormous machine busy in capturing people's polite words and separating them into letters. The girls found the man taking a nap when they crept up to the machine and rewind it so that people could get back to their normal behaviour.

The man considered all these expressions extravagant. So, he took a mission to invent a device that would steal these polite words. He calculated two benefits from his efforts. One, people won't use these words and thus he would be relieved of his apathy to people's polite behavior and the second one was earning money by selling the words stolen by the machine to somebody else. He took great caution so that nobody would understand his secret plan. After a few months' hard work, he succeeded in inventing the machine he desired for a long long time.

Once upon a time, there was a strange man who was highly bothered to see others' happiness. His own personal interest was at any cost important to him. Neither was he a polite man, nor did he like other people to be polite to each other. In fact, he hated the courteous and polite people around him and thus he hated a few expressions like please, thank you, don't mention it etc. It troubled him a lot when people around were smiling to use these expressions.

As a result, the machine exploded, scattering all the letters it had gathered into the sky. After some moments, the letters started coming down, like rain, and ended up in the sea. After that, everyone became polite and respectful to each other again. The anger and the arguments stopped, proving that good manners are very useful for keeping people together in a spirit of happiness.

D. Read the story again and answer the following questions.

- i. What is the story about?
- ii. What made the strange man to invent a machine which would destroy all the good words?
- iii. How did the machine change people's attitudes?
- iv. Why did the girls start exchanging polite words with each other? What was the consequence?

E. Think whether anyone you know needs to improve manners and etiquette. Make a plan on how to help him or her.