





CHAPTER 3

TEST YOUR ETIQUETTE



he answers are at the end of the chapter – but no peeking yet! Find out first whether your teatime manners are Buckingham Palace ready.



What do you call the three little beauties in the picture? Do you pronounce the word scone as though it rhymes with stone, or do you say scon, rhyming with gone? It's a subject of huge debate.

SCONE OR SCONE



Let's say you've entered a classy tearoom. You sit down at the table which is laid up nicely, and next to your place setting is your linen napkin. Or is it a serviette?



You've sat down at the table, but the waiting staff have not put your napkin/serviette on your lap. At what stage do you do so yourself? Place your bets, please:

- a. As soon as you sit down?
- b. After you have placed your order with the waiter/waitress?
- c. When you see the refreshments arriving?



IS IT A NAPKIN OR A SERVIETTE?

TEST YOUR ETIQUETTE



How do you place your napkin/serviette (hint, it's not tucked into the top of your blouse/shirt)? Is it:

- a. A triangle shape across your lap?
- b. Opened out into the largest square shape, across your lap?
- c. Folded in half across your lap?



A three-tiered cake stand (sometimes called a whatnot) has arrived with three plates on it: a layer of sandwiches, one of warm scones with pots of cream and jam, and a layer of small cakes. In which order do you enjoy the three layers?



A WHATNOT



SCONE OR SCONE



If someone asks you if you are miffy or tiffy, to what are they referring? Have a guess if you don't know.



It's time to pour your tea. Which is the posh way? Should you add milk first and then tea, or tea first and then add milk?



TEA OR MILK FIRST?



You are pouring tea for yourself and two others. Do you:

- a. Line up the cups close to you and pour into all three, one after the other, then ask your companions how they like their tea, adding milk/sugar etc before passing the cups over to them?
- b. Pour each cup separately and pass it to one person for them to add whatever they want to it, before you pour the next cup for the next guest?



You are opposite your friend who is chatting to you as you are sipping your cup of tea. Where should you look?

- a. At your friend?
- b. Briefly close your eyes when sipping?
- c. Into your cup as you sip?



When you're holding your tea cup nicely, should your pinkie finger be sticking out or tucked in?

SCONE OR SCONE



You are stirring your tea. Would you believe there is a correct way to do this, too? Is it:

- a. Backwards and forwards in a south and north direction?
- b. Round and round clockwise?
- c. Round and round anti-clockwise?



You need to put your teaspoon back down on your saucer. What is the correct position for the spoon?



WHAT IS THE CORRECT TEASPOON POSITION?



You wish to drink some tea. Do you pick up both your cup and saucer (eg, cup in the right hand and saucer in the left, held under the cup) or just the cup alone?

- b. Gently spit it into your spoon and use that to place the stone/pip on the side of your plate?
- c. Discreetly spit it into your napkin/serviette and wrap the stone/pip up in that?



You have picked up and eaten a cherry (or a grape with pips) that was garnishing the food. Now you have the stone/pip in your mouth and need to get rid of it. Uh-oh – what is considered the best etiquette?

- a. Discreetly spit it into your left hand and place the stone/pip on the side of your plate?





You are in a hotel or tearoom and have a warm dish such as Welsh Rarebit (a delicious variation on cheese on toast that's sometimes offered at afternoon tea), but you decide you want a little more seasoning on it. There is a salt and pepper mill on the table. Do you:

- a. Grind salt and pepper on to the side of your plate and add it to your food from there?
- b. Grind salt and pepper over the top of the food directly?
- c. Not add any extra seasoning as it's considered rude to the chef?

Who knew there was etiquette about adding seasoning to your food?



This is a controversial one as it concerns how you hold your knife, which may not be how you have been brought up to hold it. However, there definitely is a way that is considered the posh way – so here goes.

- a. You hold your knife like a pen with the handle cradled between your thumb and forefinger
- b. You hold your knife with the handle buried in your palm and your first finger on top of the knife handle
- c. You hold your knife with the handle buried in your palm and your thumb and fingers wrapped around it

TEST YOUR ETIQUETTE



You've finished your Welsh Rarebit. How do you leave your knife and fork on your plate?



WHAT IS THE CORRECT POSITION?

SCONE OR SCONE



Why do you think a cucumber sandwich could be considered the equivalent of a Rolex watch? Hint, if you know how and when the tradition of afternoon tea began, that might help, but if not – guess.



- It's time to enjoy your scone. It's on your plate and you need it in two halves. Do you:
- Break it into two approximate halves with your hands?
 - Cut it horizontally with your knife?
 - Turn the scone on its side and slice vertically down the centre with your knife?



HOW DO YOU OPEN YOUR SCONE?

TEST YOUR ETIQUETTE



There are two communal dishes of clotted cream and jam on the table, each with a spoon in it. You want some for your scone. Do you:

- a. Take each of the spoons in turn and add the jam/cream contents on to each side of your scone, returning the spoons to the dishes?
- b. Take each of the spoons in turn and add the jam/cream on to the side of your plate, returning the spoons to the dishes?



HOW DO YOU SERVE THESE?

SCONE OR SCONE



Have a guess at the most popular three jams or preserves that are eaten with scones in the UK.



Is a dainty meal of sandwiches, cakes and scones called:

- a. Afternoon tea?
- b. High tea?
- c. English cream tea?



If you have a meal involving a bread roll on your side plate, do you:

- a. Cut it in half and apply butter to both sides?
- b. Break it in half and apply butter to both sides?
- c. Break it into pieces and apply butter as you go to individual bites?



You need to leave the table during the meal, but you will be coming back. Where do you put your napkin?

- a. On the table, folded up?
- b. On the table, crumpled?
- c. On your chair, folded up?
- d. On your chair, crumpled?



The meal is over. Where do you put your napkin?

- a. On the table to the left of your place setting, folded up?
- b. On the table to the left of your place setting, crumpled?
- c. On your chair, folded up?
- d. On your chair, crumpled?

That's it. Buy the book to find out if you are right.