

# LAUGH AND LEARN

## MANNERS-ETIQUETTE

### THOUGHTS:

Good manners will open doors that the best education cannot.

Ceremonies are different in every country, but true politeness is everywhere the same.

Anyone can be polite to a king. It takes a gentleman to be polite to a beggar

### TEACHER EMPHASIZES OLD-FASHIONED ETIQUETTE

By David Knowles [on aol.com]

In addition to the three R's, boys at one Arizona public high school have spent the past year learning to open doors for girls, pull out chairs for their female classmates and stand when a girl enters a room.

Incorporating etiquette lessons into the classroom was the brainchild of Cord Ivanyi, a Latin teacher at Gilbert Classical Academy, a public college prep school 30 miles east of Phoenix.

"I teach old-fashioned subjects, so I don't think I'm doing anyone a disservice by promoting old-fashioned traditions."



A teacher for 14 years, Ivanyi said he was inspired to start demonstrating what he considers proper etiquette after witnessing the coarse behavior that some of the boys in his classes displayed toward the girls.

Left: Male students in Cord Ivanyi's Latin class at Gilbert Classical Academy high school have learned such etiquette techniques as seating the girls at their desks.

The informal lessons began with Ivanyi standing up one day after a girl in the class had left the room to go to the bathroom. As she returned, Ivanyi held open the door for

her. "She had this funny look on her face," Ivanyi recalled. "And the other kids giggled a little."

Soon, however, Ivanyi was schooling the 10th-grade boys on how to seat their female counterparts at their desks, by pulling out their chair and sliding it underneath them as they sat. As a show of respect, the boys were encouraged to stand any time a girl entered the room.

Behavior that was once utterly foreign has become routine. "Ninety-eight percent of the boys stand now when a girl enters the room, and the girls love it," Ivanyi said.



As a result of the emphasis on politeness, the overall mood in the classroom has changed markedly.

"There's a different tenor in the class, a gravity attached to the girls. They've been more feminized in the boys' eyes," Ivanyi said. "These girls are reading Jane Austen novels in class. For them, chivalry hasn't gone out of style."

Melissa Leonard, an etiquette instructor in New York for the past 13 years, applauds Ivanyi's efforts. "I think it's great if it's practical etiquette instead of the white-glove, snobby kind."

Right: Teacher Cord Ivanyi, seen here with his dog, Toby

Gilbert Classical Principal Brian Rosta stresses that the emphasis Ivanyi places on social graces is not an official part of the school's curriculum. Rosta has no plans to expand the politeness training, but he is a firm believer that schools can play a vital role in teaching manners.

What's more, the parents of the students in Ivanyi's class don't seem to mind, either.

"The only [reaction] I've heard are parents calling to make sure that their daughters say 'thank you' to the boys," Headmaster Rosta said.



## FUN QUIZ:

Identify seven examples of rude manners in the picture to the right.

No answers will be given. You are on your own to give your opinion.

### Review of Article:

What subject does Cord Ivanyi teach?

How many years has he been a teacher?

What are boys encouraged to do when a girl enters the classroom?

Parents call the school to ask if the girls do what?





## THE LINKS:

Proper Table Manners & Dinner Etiquette : Using a Knife Continental Style

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyuC950XCTI>

Proper Table Manners & Dinner Etiquette : Using a Knife American Style

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbMRRj\\_cuoY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbMRRj_cuoY)

Social Etiquette : Tips to Become a Perfect Gentleman

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpkQ83RmQp4>

Matilda - A Childs guide to manners (Funny)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zwy6q63PAzW>

Manners for the Real World: Basic Social Skills

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjISA-u8KUI>

Facebook Manners And You (Funny)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iROYzrm5SBM>



Review Answers: **Latin, 14 years, stand up, ask if the girls say thank you.**

## THE LAUGH:

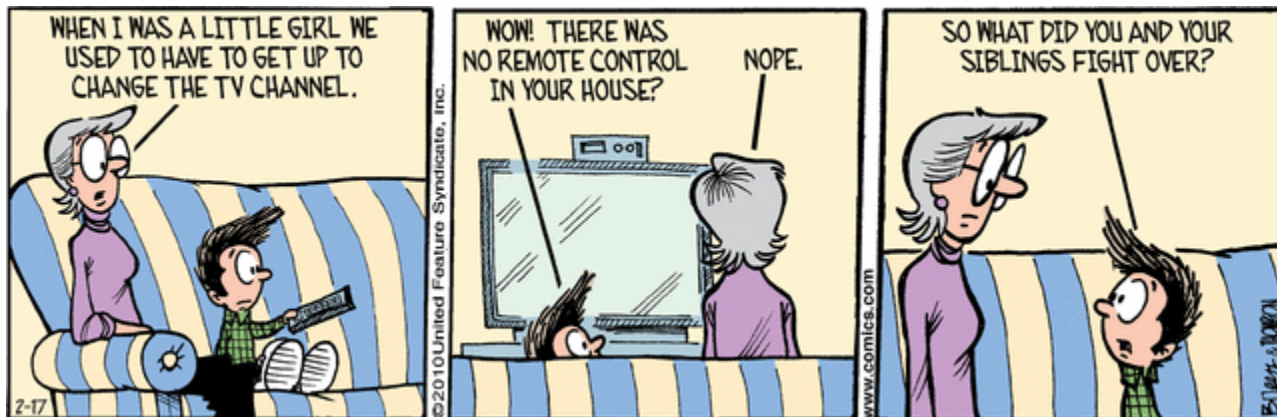
A teacher was giving her class of small children a lesson on good manners.

"Suppose, by mistake, you step on a lady's foot. What do you do?"

"I say 'excuse me'."

"Very good. Now suppose the lady, to reward you, gives you a coin. What do you do?"

"Step on the other foot to get a second one."



## Etiquette Lessons for American Rednecks

Never take a beer to a job interview.

Always identify people in your yard before shooting at them.

If you have to vacuum the bed, it is time to change the sheets.

When drinking directly from the bottle, always hold it with your fingers covering the label.

Avoid throwing bones and food scraps on the floor as the restaurant may not have dogs.

Do not allow the dog to eat at the table, no matter how good his manners are.

While ears need to be cleaned regularly, this is a job that should be done in private using one's OWN truck keys.

Proper use of toiletries can delay bathing for several days. However, if you live alone, deodorant is just a waste of money.

Dirt and grease under the fingernails is a social no no, as they tend to detract from a woman's jewelry and alter the taste of finger foods.

Pigs and chickens are usually poor choices for a wedding gift.

Though uncomfortable, say "yes" to socks and shoes when attending a wedding.

When approaching a road intersection, the vehicle with the largest tires always has the right of way.

