Learning British table manners and dining customs

Vocabulary Match

1. host 2. switch 3. greet 4. conversation 5. natural 6. polite

__ swap __ comfortable __ organiser __ discussion __ respectful __ welcome

Conversation

Lina asks Jack for advice on British table manners before attending a dinner party. He shares useful tips on dining etiquette and polite behavior.

Lina: Hi, Jack! I've been invited to a dinner party this weekend. Any tips on British table manners?

Jack: Hi, Lina! Sure. First, when you arrive, ____ the ____ and maybe bring a small gift, like a bottle of wine or flowers.

Lina: Oh, that's a good idea. What about at the table?

Jack: When you sit down, don't start eating until everyone has their food and the host says, "Let's start" or something like that.

Lina: Got it. And is there anything specific about how to eat?

Jack: Not really. Just eat with your knife and fork if it's that kind of meal. You don't have to ____ hands like some people say. Just use what feels ____.

Lina: What about talking during the meal?

Jack: That's fine! Just try not to talk with your mouth full, and keep the ____ light—like asking about their day or the food.

Lina: Makes sense. What should I do if I don't like the food?

Jack: Try to eat a little and say something ____, like, "It's lovely, but I'm full." No need to explain too much.

Lina: That's helpful! Anything else?

Jack: Yeah, at the end, thank the host and maybe offer to help clear the table. It's polite, even if they say no.

Lina: Thanks, Jack. This helps a lot!

Jack: No problem, Lina. Enjoy the dinner party!

Quiz

1. What should you bring when you greet the host?
2. When can you start eating at the table?
3. What should you say if you don't like the food?

True or False

1. Lina should bring a small gift, like a bottle of flowers. True | False
2. Jack says you should switch hands when eating. True | False
3. It's polite to help clear the table at the end. True | False

Discussion

1. Do you enjoy dinner parties? Why or why not?
2. Do you like to talk during meals?
3. What would you bring as a gift to a host?
4. Do you prefer eating with a fork or chopsticks?

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