

## BBC Learning English – Ask About Britain

### About this script

Please note that this is not a word for word transcript of the programme as broadcast. In the recording and editing process, changes may have been made which may not be reflected here.

### 关于台词的备注:

请注意这不是广播节目的逐字稿件。本文稿可能没有体现录制、编辑过程中对节目做出的改变。

---

### Manners 言行举止

**John:** Hi there from BBC Learning English, and you've joined us for another edition of Ask About Britain!

**Oliver:** Hi John, nice to be back again. 欢迎收听英国问答。今天的节目里我们要回答哈尔滨听众 Peter 的一个关于英国生活和语言的问题。

**John:** This is what Peter says.

**Oliver:** 由于邮件太长，我们进行了部分删节，Peter 希望你不要介意。

### Insert

*I'm interested in British culture very much. We know there are a lot of cultural differences between us. I think I should get to know it step by step. So I want to know the most important part, table manners, and I know that table manners are not just the only manners!*

**John:** Now this is a big subject!

**Oliver:** So, it's not going to be easy to cover everything. 不过 Peter 我们会尽力回答你的问题的。

**John:** We asked two experts about this.

**Oliver:** 我们的两个专家，our experts，他们是《时尚圣经》The Style Bible 的作者 Alon Shulman，和青年小说家 a novelist，Wendy Holden。

**John:** So let's start by talking about modern manners.

**Oliver:** 现代礼仪。也就是当今社会人们谈论和专注的礼仪。

**John:** OK, well a new survey has just come out in Britain, which says the British are bad mannered!

**Oliver:** I always thought the British were well mannered. 很显然的, 英国人没有礼貌! 我很想知道这个调查到底是怎么说的。What did the survey reveal John?

**John:** Well this survey was for a popular British weekly magazine, and it showed that 25% of people never sent a thank you letter even if they were invited to someone's house for dinner.

**Oliver:** 很多年前, 如果一个人到别人家里去吃晚饭或者应邀参加聚会后, 没有写信或寄卡片表示感谢的话, 就会被认为是非常没有礼貌的事情, 这就是 thank you letters, 感谢信。

**John:** Now, talking of parties at people's houses...

**Oliver:** Ah yes, if you have been invited for a dinner party, would you answer your mobile phone whilst eating at the table? 我们的时尚专家 Alon 会在餐桌前接电话吗?

### Insert

*I personally would like think that I wouldn't, but I would I think. I think that mobile phones have now become sort of an extension of our, you know, of ourselves, you know we are expected to be on the phone. I mean is it rude to answer the phone, or is it rude to have the phone switched off when someone calls you, knowing that you have a phone with you?*

**Oliver:** 他的观点很有意思, 不管电话开机还是关机都是没礼貌。用英语说就是 you can't win, 就是一种无论你怎么都不对的情形。

**John:** So, what do you think? Is it rude to keep your mobile switched on when you are at a dinner party?

**Oliver:** Well, I think it's very rude, 非常没礼貌!

**John:** And there was one other thing that Alon said, he said the mobile phone was an extension of ourselves!

**Oliver:** So mobile phones are so important that they have become part of our personalities! 手机就是一切!它已经成为我们的一部分,所以人们不认为和朋友通个电话是什么没礼貌的事情,哪怕是在餐桌上。

**John:** So, that's one way in which British manners have changed.

**Oliver:** 另外一个英国人礼貌改变的方面是约会守时不再是一件要紧的事, **being on time no longer matters!**

**John:** Well, let's look at that survey again! Half of all the people that were asked said they did NOT believe it was a problem if you were late for an important date!

**Oliver:** 那么如果有一个重要的约会, **an important date**, 那么看起来迟到已经不在是一个不礼貌的行为。

**John:** Does Wendy mind being late – our other expert. Does she think it's important, is she sometimes late?

### Insert

*Oh, I desperately try not to be. I think sometimes you can't really help being late, but on the whole I hate hate hate being late!*

**John:** I hate hate hate being late says Wendy!

**Oliver:** So she always likes to be on time. Wendy 说,我最最讨厌迟到。I hate being late!

**John:** Let's look at one last part of the survey. 25% of the people asked said they would not write a thank you letter after they had been invited to someone's home for a party.

**Oliver:** 那 Alon 会写这样的信吗?

**John:** Alon said it would depend on who you were writing the thank you letter to.

## Insert

*Mother yes, girlfriend's mother, aunt, no – it depends what for.*

**Oliver:** 嗯，他的意思是要看你需要感谢谁。 It depends on who you are writing the thank you letter to.

**John:** So, there you are, some interesting insights into some interesting British manners, and there are plenty more! But bye for now!

**Oliver:** Bye!

## Glossary

Bad manners	没礼貌，无礼
Well mannered	有修养的，有礼貌的
An extension of ourselves	我们自身的延伸
A survey	调查
Thank you letters	感谢信
Dinner party	晚宴聚会