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Manners Make the Man

Activity One – Listen to the song and make a list of all the well-mannered habits referred to.

I don't drink coffee I'll take tea my dear
I like my toast done on one side
As you can hear it in my accent when I talk
I'm an Englishman in New York

See me walking down Fifth Avenue
A walking cane here at my side
I take it everywhere I walk
I'm an Englishman in New York

I'm an alien, I'm a legal alien
I'm an Englishman in New York
I'm an alien, I'm a legal alien
I'm an Englishman in New York

If "manners make the man" as someone said
Then he's the hero of the day
It takes a man to suffer ignorance and smile
Be yourself no matter what they say

I'm an alien, I'm a legal alien
I'm an Englishman in New York
I'm an alien, I'm a legal alien

I'm an Englishman in New York

Modesty, propriety can lead to notoriety
You could end up as the only one
Gentleness, sobriety are rare in this society
At night a candle's brighter than the sun

Takes more than combat gear to make a man
Takes more than license for a gun
Confront your enemies, avoid them when you can
A gentleman will walk but never run

If "manners maketh man" as someone said
Then he's the hero of the day
It takes a man to suffer ignorance and smile
Be yourself no matter what they say

I'm an alien, I'm a legal alien
I'm an Englishman in New York
I'm an alien, I'm a legal alien
I'm an Englishman in New York



Activity Two – With your partner **brainstorm** a list of the ten impolite habits you hate the most. (You can use a dictionary).

Activity Three – Now with a different partner, **invent** five rules for good manners. (You can use a dictionary).

Activity Four –Polite Expressions In English;

- **'Please may I',** *is the polite way of saying can I?*
- **'Could I' or 'would you mind if' or 'may I'** *are polite ways of asking a question.*
- **'I wonder if I could have',** *is a polite way of asking for something.*
- **I was wondering if you could help me***? It's polite to ask for assistance in this way.*
- **'Would you mind + ING',** *you use this to ask someone to do something.*
- **'Would it be possible to/for',** *this is a polite way of asking for something.*
- **'Could you possibly'** *is another way of asking.*
- **'I would really appreciate it if you could'**, this is a way to politely ask for a or favour
- **'I would be most grateful if'**, this is a common way of asking for something in writing

- **'I'm terribly sorry but',** *this is a very polite way of saying sorry.*
- **'I must apologise for**…', *use this expression to say sorry for something*
- **'Please excuse me but',** is *another way of apologising.*



- **'Thanks very much indeed',** *is more polite than simply saying thanks.*
- **'I can't thank you enough',** *is a way of showing your gratitude.*
- **'Thanks a lot, I really appreciate it'**, *is another choice.*

- **'I'm afraid I'll have to say no',** *is the best way to refuse politely.*
- **'I'm afraid that's not going to be possible'**, *you can say no in this way too.*
- **I'm not going to be able to help you I'm afraid**, *this is another option.*

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Activity Five – Role-Plays - Act out the following situations in two ways: once very impolitely and once very politely.

1. Tell a client that the store is closing.
2. Reply to someone who asks for directions.
3. Explain to someone that the seat they have sat in is reserved.
4. Call a call centre and explain that you are not satisfied with the product you received.
5. Ask your boss for a day off next Monday.

Activity Six – Using **Modals** / **Conditionals** for polite expressions in English.

As you can see from the examples above there are a number of techniques for making enquiries more polite. **With modal verbs we don't use 'to'**.

I would appreciate (not ~~I would to appreciate~~)
Could I ask you (not ~~could I to ask you~~)
I would like (not ~~I would to like~~)
Could you help me please (not ~~could you to help~~ me)
(Note - I would like to go – *OK because with I would like – you use 'to'.)*

• *Using modal verbs such as 'would' or 'could' makes requests or enquiries 'gentler'.*

 Tell me where the cinema is. (impolite)
 Would you tell me where the cinema is? (polite)

• *Using 'if' tells your reader that you are flexible and grateful for their co-operation.*

First and second conditional structures can be used to make polite requests.

 If you are happy with my suggestion, let's arrange a time to meet. (1st conditional)
 If you could give me the information I need, that would be great! (2nd conditional)
 I hope that this would be acceptable to you.

Activity Seven – Act out the following situations. Be as polite as possible in each one.

1. The Bill – You go out for lunch with a friend. He claims he forgot his wallet but promises to pay you back. You agree. You have seen him twice since and he has not offered to repay you.
2. The Gift – Your Grandma has just given you a sweater for your birthday. It's **hideous**. You ask for the receipt so you can exchange it for something else.
3. The Truth – Your friend wants to be an artist. His work is not very good**.** You are considering suggesting to him that he try another career path.
4. You are invited to dinner at a friends house. The food she prepares is inedible. You need to tell her that you can't eat it.
5. Facebook – Your Aunt asks to be your friend on facebook. You really don't want your whole family to see your Facebook profile, so you need to say no politely.

Activity Eight Where do you think we see the worse manners today?

Rap music	Football matches	In a supermarket queue	In schools
TV reality shows	On the roads		In call centres

Let's see what polite Rap music would be like - **http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TE6K5hS-G4Y**