Unit 3 Bad Manners in Public

Introduction

Manners can mean different things to different people. We can say they’re “relative.” That means that things can change depending on time and place. Whether or not music is “too loud” is relative. A sound level of 100dB is not relative. It’s absolute. It doesn’t change. When we think about “manners” we need to remember the social context. What makes good manners is different among different cultures, and even among different age groups within the same culture. Can you think of some examples?

Vocabulary

etiquette - manners

grope - touch a stranger sexually, forced or without consent

cologne - 香料

smell (v.) - 臭う

scent - 香り

ill-mannered - rude, 無礼, 失礼

Discussion Questions

1. Do you think you have good manners?
2. What about other students here at school?
3. What about the students from your high school?
4. What are some examples of good and bad manners in these different situations?
   - classroom
   - school cafeteria
   - library
   - athletic field or gym
   - gym locker room
   - train
   - walking on the street (daytime? nighttime? area?)
5. Share some stories about your personal observations or experiences.
6. Do you think, in general, that people's manners are getting worse? Why?
7. Technology is changing human behavior, and therefore, manners. How has the popularity of cell phones, smart phones, and MP3 players changed manners?
8. Online life is a new aspect to society that will require a whole new set of etiquette rules. What kinds of rules can you suggest about good manners in these contexts:
   - email
   - text messaging
   - Mixi or Facebook
   - Skype

Silva tonysensei@mac.com
Interesting links:
Tony’s Student Download Page (direct link)  http://www.tony-silva.com/download/
Tony’s Student Portal (easy to remember)  http://tonysensei.net/
A smart girl’s guide to manners by american girl  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmklpcKldXo
Body Language and Manners  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6P5shxJZz4&feature=related
American Manners  http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Etiquette_in_North_America

Your thoughts, ideas, questions from the textbook (for discussion or to ask Tony):

I notice that students’ manners here at Kobe College are different from those at my high school. There are still some ill-mannered girls, but in general, the girls are more lady-like. I need to remember to be more careful. Also, some of my teachers are not Japanese, and their manners can be different, too. Thinking about university and watching my teachers and sempai, I am starting to think that adult manners are important.

New words from your research:
courteous - polite
repatriated - returned to one’s home country
prey - the victim
cobbled streets - streets made of stones
psychiatrist - doctor specializing in mental health and mental illness

Your thoughts, ideas, questions from your research (for discussion or to ask Tony):
(Attach copies of the results of your research.)

In my research, I found an article about how different people think about Americans. Are they rude? I was surprised at the different opinions. in many European countries, very few thought Americans were rude. In Canada and mid-eastern countries, many more people thought Americans were rude.

I also read an article about “Paris syndrome.” This is a kind of a culture shock that Japanese tourists get when they visit France. They find the French so rude they are overwhelmed and have to return to Japan. Some are even hospitalized!

I guess manners can be very different in different countries! I wonder what Tony thinks about manners in Japan.
Are Americans Rude?

A Pew Research Center fan recently wrote us to ask if people around the world shared his opinion as a widely traveled person that people in other countries found Americans as polite and courteous. A 2005 Pew Global Attitudes survey found that few in most Western countries view Americans as "rude," including just 12% in Germany, 21% in Poland, 26% in the Netherlands and 29% in Great Britain. In fact, Americans were more likely to call themselves rude (35% did so) than were people in these foreign countries. Our neighbors to the north, however, were not as generous in their opinions. A majority of Canadians described Americans as rude. Looking farther around the globe, countries such as Turkey (53% find Americans rude), Indonesia (56%) and Jordan (64%) share the unflattering opinion of Americans with Canadians. It should be noted, however, that since this survey was taken, overall views of the U.S. have improved considerably.
The reality of Paris does not always live up to the dream
A dozen or so Japanese tourists a year have to be repatriated from the French capital, after falling prey to what's become known as "Paris syndrome". That is what some polite Japanese tourists suffer when they discover that Parisians can be rude or the city does not meet their expectations. The experience can apparently be too stressful for some and they suffer a psychiatric breakdown.

Around a million Japanese travel to France every year.

Shocking reality
Many of the visitors come with a deeply romantic vision of Paris - the cobbled streets, as seen in the film Amelie, the beauty of French women or the high culture and art at the Louvre. The reality can come as a shock.

An encounter with a rude taxi driver, or a Parisian waiter who shouts at customers who cannot speak fluent French, might be laughed off by those from other Western cultures. But for the Japanese - used to a more polite and helpful society in which voices are rarely raised in anger - the experience of their dream city turning into a nightmare can simply be too much. This year alone, the Japanese embassy in Paris has had to repatriate four people with a doctor or nurse on board the plane to help them get over the shock.

They were suffering from "Paris syndrome". It was a Japanese psychiatrist working in France, Professor Hiroaki Ota, who first identified the syndrome some 20 years ago. On average, up to 12 Japanese tourists a year fall victim to it, mainly women in their 30s with high expectations of what may be their first trip abroad. The Japanese embassy has a 24-hour hotline for those suffering from severe culture shock, and can help find hospital treatment for anyone in need.

However, the only permanent cure is to go back to Japan - never to return to Paris.