

# Business Meal Don'ts

Here follows seven missteps you absolutely want to avoid during a business meal with customers or interviewers:



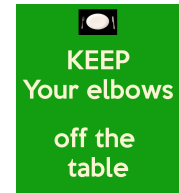
1. Getting **phone calls** is strictly forbidden; you do so at the risk of coming off as a boor.

2. Mind the **volume of your voice** and the **lengthiness of your speech**: you don't want to speak too loud or monopolize the conversation.



3. Don't leave any objects (keys, sunglasses, wallet) on the table: occupying common spaces looks **disrespectful** and **self-centered**.

4. No **elbows** on the table!



5. **Don't rotate the dish** while you're eating and, at the end of the course, put your **fork and knife together at 4:20 on the plate** (if you're eating American style, your fork tines face up) to tell the waiter you're done.

6. **Don't wolf down food** as if you had been starving for days and **avoid eating too slowly**, lest your tablemate should get bored waiting for you.



7. **Avoid the word 'paying'** when offering to pay for the meal: it may be perceived as rude. Say instead 'Please, allow me' or 'Don't worry: it's on me'

