

# SPANISH MANNERS

Dumitrescu Amalia Andreea  
Gheorghe Ana Maria

Developing skills in Android applications and  
programming e-commerce platforms

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## *Easy, but important...and often skipped*

We all have a certain set of manners ingrained in us since birth by our society that we do automatically, things you do to be considered polite (e.g. saying “please” and “thank you” when appropriate, not cutting people off at the exit to a building, not cutting in line, etc.), and Spanish culture share many of those, but there are some they have that we don’t (and vice-versa) and those are what we’re going to focus on today so that you don’t inadvertently offend someone at some point.

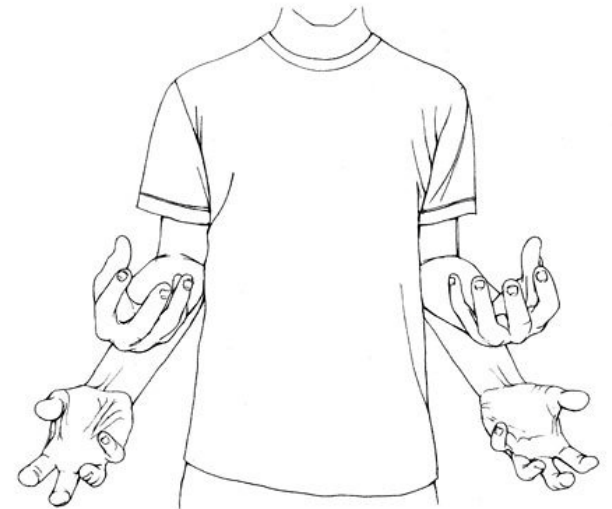
# 1. MEETINGS AND GREETINGS

- Women should greet each other and men with a kiss on both cheeks.
- Men shake hands, and they hug close friends, loudly slapping each other on the back at the same time.
- Spaniards are generally very tactile people. They will often touch your arm to emphasise a point or a joke.



## 2. BODY LANGUAGE

- Never touch, hug or back slap a Spaniard you do not know well, unless a friendly Spaniard touches you first.
- Generally, Spaniards stand very close when talking.
- Spaniards speak a lot with their hands. Never mimic them.



### 3. APPOINTMENTS IN SPAIN

If you have an appointment with a Spaniard don't expect him to arrive on time, although being more than 15 minutes late is considered bad manners. If you're going to be more than 15 minutes late for an appointment you should telephone and apologise.



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## 4. DRESSING STYLE

- Spanish men and women are almost invariably well groomed and style and fashion are important, although they often dress casually.
- It's advisable to dress conservatively when doing business or visiting government offices on official business.
- Spaniards consider that bathing costumes, skimpy tops and flip-flops or sandals with no socks are strictly for the beach or swimming pool, and not for example, the streets, restaurants or shops.



Socks and Sandals

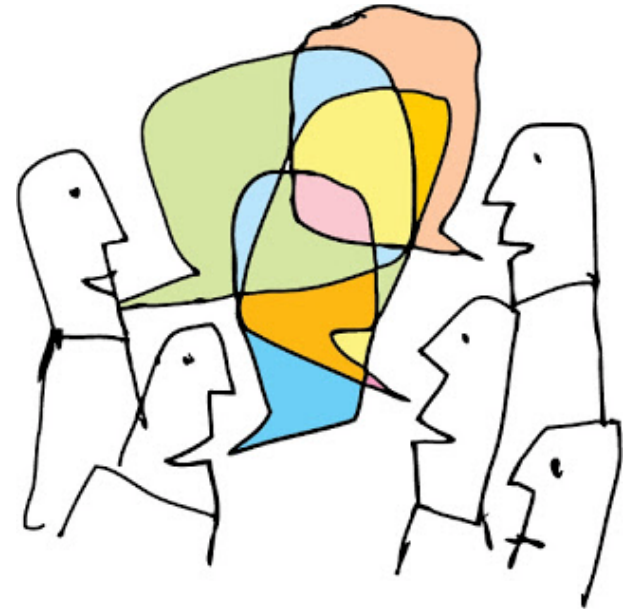
## 5. TABLE MANNERS

- Do not dip your bread in the soup! This is very rude and the concept of dipping things into sauces isn't very common anyway. However, don't be surprised to see a Spaniard holding a fork in their right hand and a small piece of bread in their left. The bread is then used to help push things onto the fork.
- Elbows off the table! Yes, this rule still exists in Spain but it has, like in most cultures, got more relaxed over the years. Also you should keep your hands visible and not hidden under the tablecloth. Either side of the plate is a good place for your hands to sit while you are waiting for your Spanish food to be served.
- Always keep talking. The Spanish love to talk and especially at meal times so it is extremely awkward to be sat in a Spanish restaurant in silence.



## 6. HELPFUL HINTS

- Expect to be interrupted when speaking.
- Be patient. Nothing is done in a hurry. Spanish trademarks are procrastination and delay.





## 7. SAYING GOODBYE

- You've got lots of different choices here and, frankly, this isn't as big a deal as a lot of other stuff. "Adiós" and "Hasta luego" are appropriate for almost all situations

adiós!



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Thank you  
for  
your attention