



Segment 3 (Units 5–8)

Manners

Genre: Newscast

Viewing Time: 2:24

Cultural Information

After-school activities have become very popular in many countries. Among the most popular choices for after-school programs in the United States are tutoring to prepare students for important standardized tests (college admission test preparation is very widespread), karate lessons, music lessons, writing workshops, or “brainy” games such as chess. This trend has become so widespread that some psychologists and child-development specialists have claimed that parents are putting too much pressure on their children and that they’re depriving them of important aspects of their childhood and adolescence, such as spending free time with their peers.

Vocabulary for Comprehension

Preview the vocabulary with your students.

booming: *that is making sudden increase*

buck: *colloquial word meaning dollar (big bucks: a lot of money)*

filet mignon: *small tender piece of beef steak, usually associated with rich people or expensive restaurants*

lap: *the upper part of your legs when you are sitting down*

on the run: *in a hurry*

seek: *to try to find or get something*

silverware: *objects such as knives, spoons, and forks that are made of silver or any other metal*

twirl: *to continue turning around quickly*

Answer Key

Previewing (Answers may vary—as long as they are appropriate guesses, accept them for now.)

1. Horseback riding, painting, dance, karate
2. The woman is a “good manners” instructor.
3. They are taking classes in table manners.
4. Children and teenagers learning proper table manners.

In-Depth Viewing

1. your lap
2. farthest from
3. Lack of time
4. restaurants



Video Script

Reporter: Children in the U.S. often do lots of things after school besides homework, like playing sports, working on their hobbies, or taking music lessons. But the latest after-school activity for many kids is private instruction in proper table manners. That's right!

Harriet Simmons: And the first thing we need to do is take our napkin that is placed today on top of our plates. Many times the napkin is placed over here next to the forks, or sometimes you see it placed in a glass, kind of coming out like a flower. Wherever your napkin is, you take it, you open it up, and put it on your lap.

Reporter: Some parents seek the help of professionals to make sure their kids know basic table etiquette. And—they're paying the big bucks to get it.

Harriet Simmons: We will start by paying attention today—if you look to the left of your plate—there are two forks. A small fork and a larger fork. The small fork on the outside is your salad fork. Then you've got a larger fork closer to your plate. That's the dinner fork. And if you come over to the right-hand side of your plate, it's easy to see that we have a spoon and then two knives. And once again we're going to start on the outside—the silverware that's the farthest away from your plate.

Reporter: Why can't kids just learn manners at home? Well, with families always on the run, the fast-food business is booming, and kids are more and more comfortable eating hamburgers and fries out of a cardboard box. So how will they know how to behave at a formal party or business lunch? Experts like Harriet Simmons work with children once a week to refine their fine dining skills.

Harriet Simmons: Rest the fork on top of the spoon. Get some pasta in your fork, and you twirl the fork while it leans against the spoon. And when you get a nice-sized portion of pasta on your fork, then you put it in your mouth. This is something that works sometimes very easily and other times it's a little more challenging, so you have to practice. Now you all don't have pasta in front of you, but you can practice just taking the fork and twirling it against the spoon. OK?

Reporter: If you want to be sure your kids are as comfortable with eating filet mignon as they are with chicken nuggets, you might want to find a similar class near you. They are often offered at fine restaurants and hotels, or contact your local community center.