

CHARACTER EDUCATION SECTION**Good Manners in Listening and Talking**

By MAXIMINIANO A. VELASQUEZ *

One of the stepping stones to a successful and happy life is good manners. Good manners in listening and talking is within the reach of every boy and girl. Every good boy or girl should know how to listen and talk well in society, in the schoolroom, at home, in the church, in a theater, in lecture halls, libraries, public places, etc. Young boys and girls often complain that they do not know what to talk about in society. The only safe rule to follow in this case is to talk about pleasant things with a voice which is pleasant, low, and clear. People could easily tell whether you have good manners or you are ill-bred by the way you talk and listen.

When you talk, do not let your mouth sag at the corners. Don't look down or pretend to stare at something in the distance. Look straight at the person who is talking to you. In answering, speak distinctly. A half-open mouth sagging at the corners, a wandering eye, a vacant stare, and restlessness are signs that you are ill-bred.

Don't say 'uh-huh' or 'yeah!' in answering a question or 'what!' 'how?' etc. if you failed to hear or understand. Say: "Yes, father," "No, Miss Usman," "Yes, Mr. Cruz," "You are right, Jose," etc. Nowadays, instead of addressing

people with either "sir" or "ma'am," we use their names. If you wish something repeated because you failed to understand, say "I beg your pardon, Mr. Santos," "I beg your pardon, ma'am," etc. Although "No, sir," and "Yes, ma'am" are now quite out of fashion, they are still and will always be good manners. Don't be brusque in your speech. Use some such expressions freely: "pardon me," "thank you," "excuse me," "please," etc.

When you are in a crowd, you should be a courteous listener. It is said that good listeners are scarce and popular. You can be a good listener and be popular among your friends. Don't interrupt people while they are talking. If your friend is telling a joke and the joke is familiar to you, don't help him tell it. If you have some ideas to expound or arguments to offer in defense of a principle or idea, don't get either excited or sarcastic. Don't gossip about the doings of other persons. It is a better practice to talk about current public questions, principles, ideas, etc., than to talk about persons, except of course interesting public persons like senators, assemblymen, authors, artists, musicians, etc. Indecent jokes clothed in obscene language have no place in a conversation among well-bred people.

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YOUNG WRITERS

A PUNISHMENT I DIDN'T DESERVE

One afternoon I came home very happy because I was able to recite well in all my subjects. As soon as I arrived I removed my shoes for Mother doesn't allow us to enter the house with dirty shoes. I saw my mother standing beside the door waiting for me. As I came in, my mother began beating me with her slippers. I cried bitterly for the beating was hard. With tears in my eyes, I asked her what my fault was. She said she saw me get the money from her money purse. I tried to explain to her that I did not get her money but she would not listen to me. She continued beating me and even went to the extent of pinching my thigh to satisfy her anger. To avoid further scandal and to forget the sad incident, I went out to play with some of my friends. No sooner had I left when my mother called me again. On my way I met my brother. He had plenty of candies and much money. I then asked him where he got the money and the candies, but he refused to answer. I wanted to box him but Mother was looking at us, so I controlled myself. I suspected he was the one who got the money.

In the evening he slept soundly. Soon he began to talk in his sleep. I awakened my mother. We heard him say that he got the money from her purse. Mother could not say a word but I saw in her face that she was sorry for me. She knew

HOW ROCKS ARE MADE

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into clay. Sandstone is but the compressed sand-bank.

Sometimes the great heat and pressure cause the earth crust to crumble; streams of lava spring out through the fissures and pour streams of melted rock down the sides of the fold quite burying in many places the layers of limestone, sandstone, and clay. Between the strata of water-formed rocks there are often created chimney-like openings into which molten rock from below was forced, forming, when cool, veins and dikes of rock material, specimens of the substance of the earth's interior.

Tremendous pressure and heat, acting upon rocks saturated with water transform them into very different kinds of rock. Limestone subjected to these forces, is changed into marble. Clays are transformed into slates. Sandstone is changed into quartzite, the sand grains being melted so as to become no longer visible to the naked eye.

The word *sedimentary* is applied to rocks which were originally laid down under water, as sediment, brought by running water, or by wind, or by the decay of organic substances. *Stratified* rocks are those which are arranged in layers. *Aqueous* rocks are those which are formed under water. Rocks that are made out of fragments of other rocks torn down by the agencies of erosion are called

she had given me the punishment I did not deserve.

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GOOD MANNERS IN

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Besides being able to talk and listen courteously, you should also be able to contribute something readily to make a social group happy. If you are asked to sing, join a parlor game, tell a story, crack a joke, do it promptly. Don't wait to be coaxed like a stupid child. Your refusal is ungracious and is a sign of bad manners.

Don't monopolize the conversation. If you are requested to talk or to give your comment, be brief, merry and bright. Don't talk about yourself—of your achievements, of your fine ancestors, wonderful doings, etc. Propriety as well as common sense dictates that it is better to wait for someone to speak of our achievements.

Listening politely and talking courteously are some of the earmarks of a well-bred boy and girl. The way you talk and listen are not the sole qualities that will make you a gentleman or a gentlewoman; but they proclaim what you are. They help win a welcome everywhere; they are the letters of perpetual recommendation.

Fragmental. Volcanic eruptions bring material from the earth's interior.

The story of rock formation tells how fire and water, and the two combined, have made, and made over, again and again, the substance of the earth's crust. Rocks are constantly being formed, the changes that have been going on since the world began are still in progress. We can see them all about us on any and every day of our lives.