

## I'm a Nice Person... Or Am I?

Do people keep their distance from you like a five-year-old from broccoli? Even if the answer is no, there are always things, small things, that could have a negative impact on your social life. There is an easy way to fix that or, at least, some of it. Here are ten things that - if done correctly - will make you a likeable and a nice-to-be-around person. It might even change your whole perspective on how other people in our society today view you.

### 1. *Oh, whoops, shoulda held that open for ya.*

*Wam!* The person in front of you didn't hold open the door for you. Probably didn't even realize you were there - too busy walking out the door. You have to admit though, it happens even to you. Sometimes we don't realize what we do is wrong. We have to pay attention to what's going on to be able to act the right way. There are people that stick too much in their own world that they don't even notice the old man who needs help crossing the street. Whenever you're in public, you need to leave that day-dreaming at home. It's better that way.

### 2. *Why, you're welcome, your majesty.*

Know those moments when you do something nice and then the person just walks off or even complains about how it didn't fit right? Yeah, don't you just love that? To avoid having others on that end, give the person a nice "thank you" so they will appreciate doing the action for you and don't feel like wanting to grab a hold of your neck.

3. *Need some help up? Uhm... Sorry, got my hands full.*

Now let's go to something already noted in the two previous tips: helping others. Ah, yes, something simple as that. Pay attention to your environment, as said in tip one, and help someone out whenever you are able to. Warning: This does not include robbing banks or other such matter... just saying.

4. *Sorry, what was that? I was looking at myself in the mirror.*

Sharpen up your ears and attention span, young grasshopper. People love talking about themselves and the things they like and do, everyone knows that. We also know as much that it can be hard to keep on track when the *Blah-blah-blah*-train starts. That is why you have to be prepared and know that you have the energy to listen to the conversation before you space out and don't even know half of what they said. I know it can be hard (especially for you men out there) and I'm not saying you have to be able to repeat everything a person said. All you need to do is try your best to listen when they're talking to you.

5. *That is a terrib- I mean, wonderful pink orange striped sweater you've got on there.*

Negative criticism won't get you anywhere. Doesn't it just make your day when someone compliments your hair, eyes, outfit, or old crappy phone that can't do anything but call people? That's why it is always a great idea to turn your negative criticism into something positive so that this great feeling spreads to not only you, but other people around you.

6. *I won! In your face!*

Succeeding is great and all. I understand that you earned your place, but do you really need to hold the trophy right in front of other people's faces? I'm sure they have a hard time seeing where their emotions are going past that big boy and I don't think it's heading into the happy area. Win in dignity, not in arrogance.

7. *Hey, Sarah, could I borrow about thirty pieces of paper?*

Have you ever been in that position of power where you were the only one who had a watch on at school? At least from my experience, every day the same person would come up to me and ask "What time is it?". The first few times – no big deal, but as time progressed it slowly became my nightmare until I finally wasn't able to take it anymore and left my watch at home. Don't bother people with the same thing almost every day. It can really get on their bad side.

8. *She has bunny ears on, she must be a rabbit.*

Judging. We do it all the time. We judge people on the streets, we judge people who don't dress appropriately, and we judge cakes, but that's another matter. We judge people before we even fully know them. How come? It comes natural. That doesn't mean we have to go with our direct judgment though. Analyzing different scenarios before you determine what kind of person you are dealing with, will help you understand what this person truly is like. Final judgments that arrive too early, may end up in sour cake.

9. *Did you have a bad day? No? Your frown says otherwise.*

Facial expressions are a very important asset to communication. You might be making a weird face when you talk to a friend without even noticing it. Either way, the most welcoming face language, is a simple smile. If you smile and laugh at least every now and then, people will see that you can be nice and that you can have fun. That way people can approach you easier.

10. *I love my imperfect self the way it is.*

This is the most important tip of all. You have to respect not only others, but also yourself. Being fine with the way you are, on the outside as well as on the inside, will bring out your happy and nice-to-be-around self. In the end, happiness with oneself is what brings you happiness in your social life.