

## DOS AND DON'T OF DIPLOMATIC ETIQUETTE

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**Annotation :** In this article you will learn about diplomatic etiquette, its history and two main rules

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### Introduction

Diplomatic etiquette refers to the protocol and rules of behavior that are followed by diplomats and other government officials when interacting with each other and with foreign dignitaries. These rules and behaviors are designed to ensure that interactions between different countries and their representatives are respectful and productive and to help prevent misunderstandings or conflicts. Diplomatic etiquette also includes formalized procedures for handling issues such as the presentation of credentials, establishing diplomatic relations, and the accreditation of diplomats. While in another country, there are specific rules or protocols that a diplomat must observe. A diplomat must observe the protocols and traditions of the host country apart from showing respect for the culture and customs of the country of residence. A diplomat also must be mindful of body language and nonverbal communication behavior while practicing diplomacy in another country. It is also important for the diplomat to be reliable and punctual, discreet and confidential in communication. It is important for individuals representing their country abroad to behave professionally and respectfully because it reflects positively on their country and can help to strengthen international relations. Diplomacy is a key means of resolving conflicts and building cooperation between countries, and the actions of diplomats and other government officials can have a significant impact on the reputation of their country and its relationship with other nations.

### **Dos of diplomatic etiquette**

While representing abroad, it is essential to remember and practice diplomatic etiquette.

### **Represent your country with pride**

First and foremost, always introduce yourself and your country with pride in the host country. You must have comprehensive knowledge of the latest happenings, internal policies, trade, economic environment, and other details about your country.

### **Show respect for local customs, traditions, and culture**

Here is how you, as a diplomat, must respect the local customs, traditions, and culture. Research the cultural norms of the country before your visit. This will help you understand the customs and expectations of the local people. Be mindful of the local dress code and blend in with the local culture. Be mindful of body language in diplomatic etiquette. . In some cultures, certain gestures or actions may be considered disrespectful. Use formal titles when addressing people. In many cultures, it is important to show respect by using formal titles such as “Mr.” or “Mrs.” when addressing someone. Respect for religious customs is an integral part of diplomatic etiquette. If you are visiting a country with a dominant religion, respect religious customs, such as dress codes for visiting temples or mosques. Be open to trying new things. While it is important to respect local customs, it is also important to be open to trying new things and immersing yourself in the local culture.

### **Diplomatic Dress Code**

In diplomatic etiquette, it is essential to dress appropriately for the occasion. Here are some tips on how to do so:

First of all, do complete research about the local dress code. Different countries and cultures have different expectations for how people should dress. By researching the local dress code, you can ensure you are dressed appropriately for the occasion.

The second important step is that in several cultures, it is essential to dress modestly and especially when visiting important religious and cultural sites or attending events. Avoid clothing that is too revealing and too casual. Dress according to the occasion.

Third, avoid clothing with offensive or controversial messages. It is important, and as a diplomat, the messages your clothing may convey must be kept in mind.

Fourth, dress according to the weather and the activity. Be sure to dress appropriately for the weather and the activity. For example, if you attend a formal dinner, you will want to dress more formally, while if you are going on a hike, you will want to wear comfortable and practical clothing.

### **Use of proper titles and forms of address**

It is essential to use proper titles and forms of address while in formal meetings and making addresses. To use the proper titles, you have to do complete research about them. Different countries have different conventions for how to address government officials and dignitaries. By researching the appropriate titles and forms of address, you can show respect and demonstrate your knowledge of local customs. Use formal titles. In many cultures, it is essential to show respect by using formal titles such as “Mr.” or “Mrs.” when addressing someone. Use the appropriate honorifics. In some cultures, it is important to use honorifics such as “His Excellency” or “Her Majesty” when addressing government officials or dignitaries. Address the person by their title

and surname. In many cultures, it is appropriate to address government officials and dignitaries by title and surname. Use the appropriate form of address in writing. When writing to government officials and dignitaries, it is important to use the appropriate address, such as “Dear Mr. President” or “Dear Your Excellency.”

### **Don'ts of diplomatic etiquette**

It is important to know about the don'ts of diplomatic etiquette because proper etiquette is an important aspect of diplomatic relations between countries and people. By following proper etiquette, you can respect the culture and traditions of the country you visit and demonstrate professionalism. Ignoring or violating diplomatic etiquette can lead to misunderstandings or offenses, which can damage relationships and hinder the success of diplomatic missions. It can also reflect poorly on the country or organization you represent. Knowing the don'ts of diplomatic etiquette can help you avoid making mistakes that could have negative consequences. It can also help you navigate unfamiliar cultural norms and expectations and establish positive relationships with local officials and dignitaries. So here are the major don't that you should avoid doing while representing your country abroad and as a diplomat or a multinational organization.

Don't criticize or speak negatively about your own country

Don't criticize the host country or its leaders. Criticizing the host country or its leaders can be seen as disrespectful and could damage relationships.

Don't engage in inappropriate or offensive behavior, such as drinking excessively or making inappropriate comments or gestures.

Don't bring up sensitive or controversial topics without proper preparation and understanding of local views and concerns.

Don't forget your manners – be polite, gracious, and respectful to those around you

Don't arrive late to meetings or events. Being punctual shows respect for the time of others and demonstrates your professionalism.

Don't dress inappropriately. Be mindful of the local dress code and try to blend in with the local culture. Avoid clothing that is revealing or too casual.

Don't use inappropriate body language. In some cultures, certain gestures or actions may be considered disrespectful. Be mindful of your body language and try to be aware of cultural differences.

Don't bring up sensitive topics without permission. Some topics, such as religion or politics, may be sensitive in certain cultures. Be sure to get permission before bringing up these types of topics.

Don't touch people or objects without permission. In some cultures, it is considered disrespectful to touch people or objects without permission. Be sure to ask before touching anyone or anything.

Don't be overly familiar with people you don't know well. In many cultures, it is important to maintain a level of formality in relationships until a deeper relationship has been established.

Don't make assumptions. It is important to remember that cultural norms and values can vary significantly from one country to another. Be open-minded and respectful of these differences, and avoid assumptions about how people think or act.

### **Conclusion**

It is exciting to represent your country abroad as one is exposed to various cultures, people, and ideas. As an international relations student, it is important to do research and familiarize yourself with the customs and traditions of other countries, apart from having a deep knowledge of theories and important concepts of IR.

### **References**

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