

Table manners around the world

Do you have good table manners? The answer to this might depend on where you are. Shall we visit some dining tables around the world?



In some places, it is rude to eat your food noisily. But not in **Japan**. When you are eating a delicious bowl of noodles, go ahead — SLURRRRP! You can drink from the bowl too.

Slurping shows the chef you are enjoying the food.



Is it rude to eat rice with your fingers? Not in **India**. Many people there eat with their hands and it isn't impolite at all.

- 1 Wash your hands carefully before the meal.
- 2 Use the fingers of your right hand to pick up the food and put it in your mouth.

Use the left hand to drink water or pass dishes to others at the table.





In most Western countries like **the UK** and **Australia**, you eat the main meal with a knife and fork. You should always chew your food with your mouth closed too.

Use the knife only to cut food. Don't lick the knife!

In **Thailand**, people eat with a spoon in the right hand and a fork in the left. You use the fork to push the food onto the spoon. There aren't any knives on the table because the food is already in bite-sized pieces.



Only the spoon goes in your mouth.



Some table manners are the same everywhere. When you are having a meal with other people, it is rude to use your phone or electronic devices while eating!

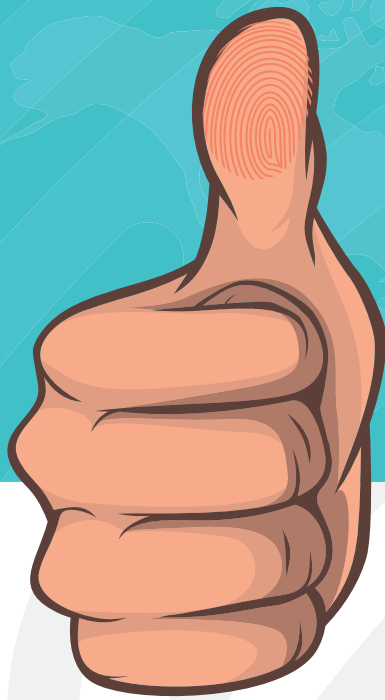
Let's put down the phone and enjoy the meal!

Are these sentences true (✓) or false (X)? Circle.

- 1 In Japan, it is OK to drink soup without a spoon. ✓ / X
- 2 You use the left hand to pass dishes in India. ✓ / X
- 3 Only people in the UK and Australia use a knife and fork. ✓ / X
- 4 You don't need a knife when you are eating Thai food. ✓ / X



Do you know any other table manners from around the world? Do some research to find out!



There is no body like yours!

What do you see when you look at the ends of your fingers and thumb? Patterns of lines, right?

These are fingerprints. No one in the world — past, present or future — has the same fingerprints as you!

Fun fact

There are three basic types of fingerprint patterns:



loop



whorl



arch



Even identical twins have different fingerprints!

Since no one has the same fingerprints, we can use fingerprints for identification.

Most smartphones have a safety feature using thumbprints. Only the owner can unlock the smartphone using his or her thumbprint.

We can also see finger scanners at airports. The machine scans your fingerprints to check your identity.

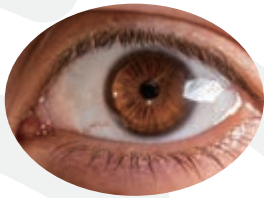


Fingerprints are useful for something else too. Solving crimes!



Every time we touch something, we leave nearly invisible marks on it. One of the first times police used these marks was in 1911. Detectives in Paris used fingerprints to help catch a thief after he stole the famous Mona Lisa painting.

We have other features that are unique to us. For example:



eyes

The iris is the coloured part of the eye. The pattern of your iris is unique to you.



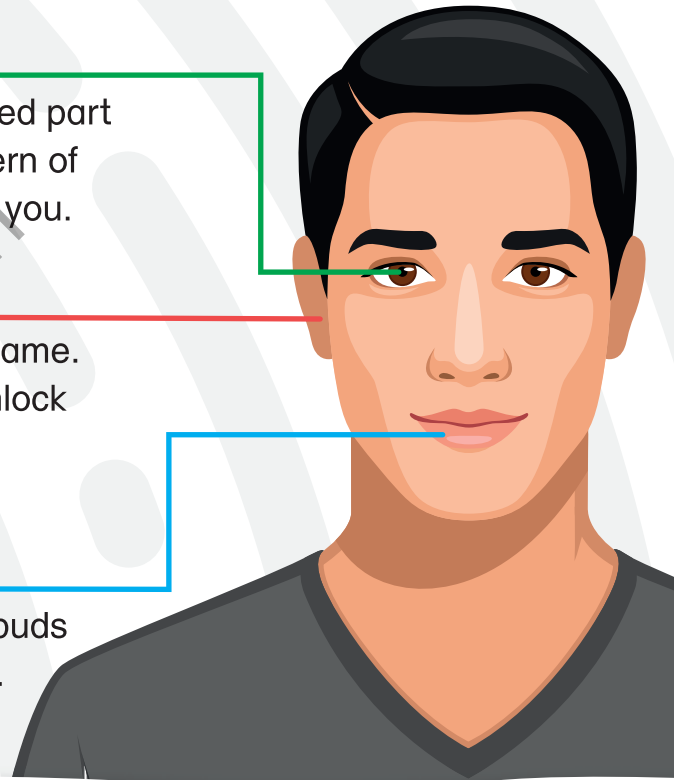
ears

No one's ears are exactly the same. One day, we may be able to unlock our phones with them!



tongue

On every tongue, the taste buds appear in a different pattern.



Answer the questions. Write and tick (✓) the best answer.

- 1 How many basic fingerprint patterns are there? _____
- 2 Do identical twins have the same fingerprints? _____
- 3 What two things can we use fingerprints for? _____
- 4 If something is 'unique to you', it means _____.
 - A. it is unusual
 - B. it is your best feature
 - C. no one else has it



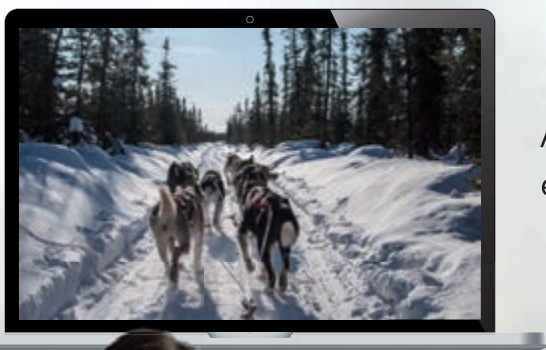
Can you think of another way to make use of fingerprints?



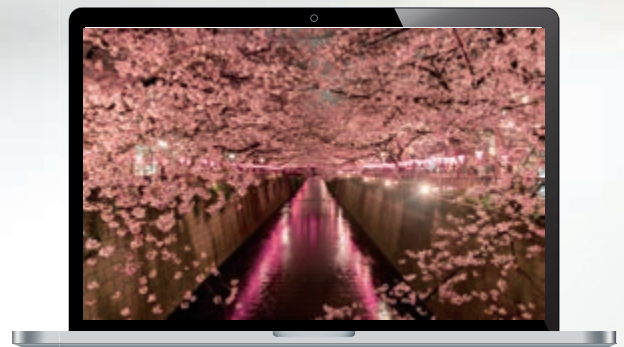
Are you ready to take a trip? There is no need to pack a bag. You don't need to exchange money and you don't need a passport.

Grab your phone or laptop. Where do you want to go? What do you want to do? The choice is yours.

There are all kinds of experiences you can have through online video platforms, and they don't cost a thing! You can take [a 360-degree dog sled ride in Alaska, USA](#) and no need to worry about meeting wolves or bears! Or for something more relaxing, you can wander [a park in Tokyo, Japan](#) to see the cherry blossoms.



A virtual dog sled tour is fast, exciting and you won't get cold.



See cherry blossoms at any time of the year.

Another option is to join a real-time virtual tour.

How to join a virtual tour

- 1 Search online for a tour that you are interested in.
- 2 Make a booking. Some tours are free and some aren't.
- 3 At the day and time of your tour, click a link and you will be there. You can even talk to the guide!

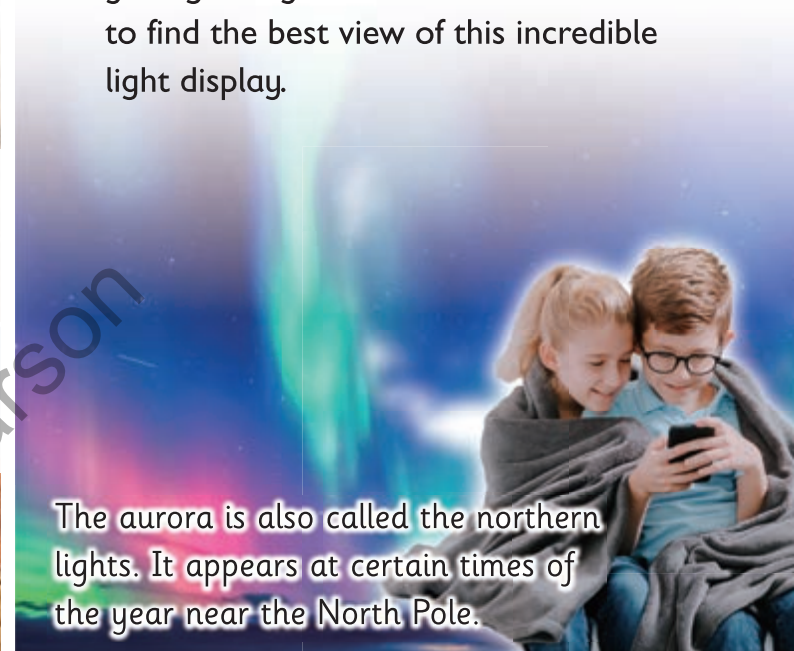


In the hot and dusty *Valley of the Kings, Egypt*, a guide will take you down staircases and along corridors into the tombs of Egyptian kings. Some are over 3,000 years old!



A temple in the Valley of the Kings.

For an adventure at night, you can go *aurora hunting in Iceland*. Together with your guide, you will drive into the wild to find the best view of this incredible light display.



The aurora is also called the northern lights. It appears at certain times of the year near the North Pole.



It might not be quite the same as the real thing — you can't try the local food, for example — but a virtual tour is an easy, inexpensive and comfortable way to see the world!

Which of the following sentences is true? Tick (✓) the correct sentences.

- 1 You can see the northern lights all year round.
- 2 On a virtual tour, you can ask the guide questions.
- 3 You don't need to book a real-time virtual tour.
- 4 All virtual tours are free.



Do you prefer virtual tours or in-person tours? Why?