

The Do's & Don'ts of Afternoon Tea



Do's

DO try a little of each food served at the tea (both sweets and savories).

DO spread a scone with cream first, then jam.

DO avoid talking with your mouth full or taking large bites.

DO wait until you have swallowed your food before you take a sip of tea. The rule is one or the other, please!

DO look into--not over--your teacup when sipping. It's polite!

DO place your napkin on the chair if you must leave the table during the event. (If you must leave for some reason, simply say "Excuse me.")

Don'ts

DON'T place items that are not part of the tea service, such as keys, sunglasses, or phones, on the table.

DON'T use milk and lemon together in tea. The citric acid of the lemon will cause the milk to curdle.

DON'T place lemon in the teacup before adding tea. The tea is always poured first.

DON'T fill your cup to the brim with tea, in order to avoid messy spills.

DON'T tip your teacup too much when drinking--keep it slightly tipped.

DON'T leave your spoon in the cup. Place it on your saucer instead.

DON'T remove food from your teeth while in the presence of others.

DON'T move your plate more than 1 inch the edge of the table, and don't push your plate away from the edge of the table when you're done eating.

DON'T talk about personal food likes or dislikes during the tea. Tea offers a nice selection of treats to avoid this problem.

DON'T place your napkin on the table until you are ready to leave the table.

