



Hello, Friends!

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August 2020 - How to Set a Formal Table

It's been estimated that 95 out of every 100 people are nervous (or actually scared) when they sit down at a formal dinner table — which of these shiny utensils should you use first???

The general rule is to start at the outside edges and work in toward the center of your placemat, etiquette experts agree, but here's a primer to give you some comfort at your next formal meal. First, here is how you should set your formal table:

Going from left to right, you should place each salad fork on the left, then the regular fork, then plates and the knife. You could use the acronym before FORKS - F for forks, O is the shape of your plates, skip the letter R then K for knife and S for spoon.

To the top left of each plate should be the bread plate along with a butter knife. Then, just above the knife on the right side of the plate is the water glass and then the wine glass (or glasses.)

If your meal is very sophisticated and you have a number of wine types, they go in order of: Sparkling Wine, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Cabernet or Merlot. Last would be your Dessert Wine.

To avoid confusion, I had to watch a video to get my layout just right. Below is a link to another video that shows a very formal dinner serving fish, which includes a special fish fork.

A good, simple plan is just to set out the utensils you plan to use for the meal. For example, if you're not having soup with dinner, do not put a soup spoon out.

Perhaps this little tip will help you keep it straight. To help remember where your bread bowl is located and where your drinks are, you can make the OK symbol with both hands. The left OK symbol forms a lower-case "b" which shows where your Bread is placed. Your right hand forms a lower-case "d" which helps you remember where your Drinks are placed.

And, here is a great video to help you place silverware properly:

<https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailv2&id=4f70FE0246B39082D9E94BAA0101E9077FB7A14D&thid=OIP...wplRzHh6S2nqA5Z-4cHGgHaFj&mediaurl=http%3A%2F1.bp.blogspot.com%2F-lyk7ZowNqXk%2FUpPst5x4a%2FAAAAAAAG%2FicMEIzqgY%2Fa1600%2FFormalTeaTableSetting.jpg&exph=1200&expw=1600&q=setting+the+table&selectedIndex=0&ajaxhist=0&vt=0&eim=1.2.6>

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