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## Not Opening Doors

Chivalry, from the Old French *chevalerie*, is related to the medieval institution of knighthood. It's usually associated with the ideas of knightly virtues, honor, and courtly love. Today, chivalry is used to describe courteous behavior, especially that of a man toward women.

And for no other reason than it just makes things more pleasant, here are a few standard courtesies to see you through the day. Showing politeness in your attitude and behavior toward others is not always missed in today's busy world, but it's almost always appreciated.

### *"After you."*

These days the door swings both directions; meaning that women open doors for men just as much as men do for women. When you and a stranger get to a door at the same time, it's courteous for you to open and hold it. Never let a door close on the person behind you after you've just walked through.

### *"May I?"*

When out with a young woman, whether you open doors and hold chairs for her depends on what she wants. It's best to ask, "May I get the door for you?" or "Can I hold your chair?" That way you don't have to guess.

### *"May I? - Scene 2"*

Most young women today aren't of a mind to sit in the car while you walk around it to open the door for them. Nor are they likely to get into a steaming hot car in August and wait while you go around, get in, start it up, and wait for the air conditioning to come on. Still, it's always best to offer. And you'll be surprised the good impression it will make.

### *"Who's First?"*

Men usually enter a revolving door first if it isn't moving. Women go first if it's already in motion. When entering and exiting elevators, whoever's in front goes first.

*“Stand on the right, walk on the left.”*

Keep to the right when riding an escalator so other people can walk past you. If you want pass someone, just say, “excuse me” or “on your left.” But, be patient and stay where you are if the escalator is crowded.

*“ A tip of the hat.”*

Generally speaking, it’s always good form to take off your hat (this includes baseball caps) upon entering a building. It should also come off while you’re in a home, indoors at work (unless it’s required), while seated at the dining table, at a movie or other indoor performance, when the national anthem is played, and when the flag of the United States passes by (like in a parade). You can leave your hat on when outdoors, at athletic events (indoors and out), at religious services (as appropriate), and in public buildings (airports and train stations).

*“Looking out for the fairer sex.”*

When walking along a street with a young woman, men usually walk on the curbside. This practice comes from the idea that men should shield women from the hazards posed by passing traffic (originally horse-and-buggies).

*“Looking out for the fairer sex. - Scene 2”*

When out and about with a young lady, it’s always best to lead the way across difficult-to-walk areas, like wet slippery ramps and rough ground. Also, as necessary, take her hand as you pass through crowds. If you’re on a date, this is a great excuse to hold hands, even if ever so briefly.

*“Walk this way.”*

At restaurants, when the maitre d’ seats you and a young woman for dinner, she should walk directly behind the maitre d’, with you behind her. In a larger mixed group of young men and women, all the women should precede the men.

*“Arm-in-arm.”*

It used to be common to see men and women walking arm-in-arm. These days it seems only to happen at weddings and formal dinner parties, like the prom. But, even though it’s not the norm, it’s still the polite thing to do from time-to-time. Try it. You may like it.

*“Can you hear me?”*

It's not the act of using your cell phone in public that upsets people, but rather how you conduct yourself. Make sure your conversation intrudes as little as possible on those around you. An option is to cup your hand over your mouth and talk softly. You'll likely never hear another complaint. Oh, and don't forget to turn down the ringer.

Courtesy-related Dos and Don'ts

- It pays to be polite. Young women will be impressed. Guaranteed.
- Be someone's Knight In Shining Armor.

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