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KOREAN TABLE MANNERS



Korean food is not served in courses, but is all placed on the table at the same time. This style is called *hangeongsik*. The main dish is almost always accompanied by steamed rice (*bap*), soup (*guk*), kimchi, and several side dishes (*banchan*).

Koreans eat their rice and soup with a spoon, and they eat side dishes with chopsticks. When eating with elders, they wait for the elders to begin eating first. Too much talking during the meal is considered impolite, and if they have to cough or sneeze during a meal, Koreans cover the mouth with a hand or a napkin. After a meal, spoons and chopsticks are placed on the same spot where they were placed first. When using a toothpick after a meal, it is normal to cover the mouth with a hand.

Pairs

- Explain Korean table manners to a foreign visitor to Korea.
- Can you think of any other table manners in Korea?
- Do a web search for more information: www.knto.or.kr or www.kois.go.kr