

# 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.

