"What Do I Do When..."

... I've dropped something? Don't pick up a dropped utensil and put it back on the table. Tell your server, who will retrieve it and bring a replacement. The exception is when you drop a utensil that might be stepped on or cause an accident; in this case, act fast and pick it up yourself.

... my fork or glass is unclean? The next time a server stops by, discretely ask for a replacement. Don't use your napkin to try to rub smudges off a utensil or glass. Also, don't announce the problem to everyone at the table.

... I spot a hair or bug? If there's the proverbial fly in your soup, try your best to avoid any fuss. Simply catch the attention of the waiter and quietly alert him to the problem. He'll bring you a replacement or something else if you choose--usually pretty speedily.

... someone at the table has food on his face? Do your friend a favor and subtly call his attention to it. Dabbing your chin and upper lip with your napkin occasionally is the best preventative medicine.

... I knock over my drink? Immediately set the glass upright and apologize. Offer your napkin to dam the flood. Summon your server who will take care of the rest and provide any dry napkins or utensils if necessary.

... the waiter tries to whisk my plate away? If a server tries to take your plate before you've finished, don't hestitat to say, "Oh, I'm not finished yet," even if he's already on his way to the kitchen.

Assorted No-Nos

- Slouching
- Fidgeting
- Smacking
- Crunching
- Touching your face or hair
- Blowing your nose
- Chewing with your mouth open
- Talking with your mouth full
- Pushing away your plate when finished
- Picking or flossing your teeth