BASIC PRINCIPLES OF LAYING THE TABLE (ОСНОВНІ ПРИНЦИПИ СЕРВІРУВАННЯ СТОЛУ)

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The hospitality of the Ukrainian people is well-known throughout the world. The usual meals in Ukraine are breakfast, lunch, dinner and supper. Rest-homes, hospitals and other public establishments generally follow the former order of meals. Breakfast is the first meal in the day. Lunch or luncheon is a light meal usually in the middle of the day. Dinner is the chief and the most substantial meal. When it is in the middle of the day, the lighter evening meal is called supper.

If you have a special dinner, a housewarming party for example, you should know how to lay the table on such an occasion.

First you spread the table-cloth and put out table-mats to protect the table from the hot dishes: a tureen of soup, a bowl of hot vegetables, a platter of meat, a boat of sauce, etc. Then you take out of the drawer in the sideboard soup spoons for the soup, spoons for the sweet and all the cutlery – knives and forks, including a small knife for the butter, a small knife and fork for the hors d'oeuvres and a fruit knife for the dessert.

You should put the knives and the soup spoon on the right-hand side and the fork on the left, except the spoon for the sweet which you should put across the top. Then you put out the bread-board and a knife to cut the bread. On the left of each guest you put a small plate for bread and on the right a wine-glass. Don't forget to put out the table napkins for each guest and place several salt-cellars.

British Meals. The usual meals are breakfast, lunch, tea and dinner. Breakfast is generally a bigger meal than you have on the Continent, though some English people like a "continental" breakfast of rolls and butter and coffee. But the usual English breakfast is porridge or "corn flakes" with milk or cream and sugar, bacon and eggs, marmalade (made from oranges) with buttered toast, and tea or coffee. For a change you can have a boiled egg, cold ham, or perhaps fish.

We generally have lunch about one o'clock. The businessman in London usually finds it impossible to come home for lunch, and so he goes to a cafe or restaurant.