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## George Washington's Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation

George Washington (1732 – 1799)

Read by:	D. S. Harvey	Language:	English
Length:	46 minutes	Style:	Solo
Genre(s):	Non-Fiction, Education and Self-Help		

Product Formats and Options					
Format	Package	Catalog	EAN/UPC	MSLP	
MP3 CD	DVD case	DB-5010	0686175923797	\$7.99	
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George Washington's Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation is a set of 110 precepts or maxims on such matters as how to dress, how to walk, how to eat in public, and how to behave correctly in the company of superiors and equals. While containing the clear guidance in propriety, the rules also address moral issues, albeit somewhat indirectly. The rules are based on a set of precepts found in a treatise "Bienseance de la Conversation" prepared by Jesuit instructors in the 16th century. They were translated into Latin and English, and eventually were translated by the precocious eight-year-old Francis Hawkins into an English version that was published in 1649 and went through eleven editions by 1672. The rules

appear on ten pages at the end of the second volume of schoolboy exercises included among the hundreds of Washington manuscripts located in the Library of Congress. Washington copied out these rules at about age 16 as both an exercise in handwriting and as a means to master topics worthy of consideration in the building of character, and thus important to a young man on the verge entering into adulthood.

## - From the "Origin of the Rules of Civility", by Charles Moore, 1926

George Washington (February 22,1732 – December 14, 1799) was an American statesman, general and political leader best known as the commander of the military that won independence from England and as first president of the United States. Born into a family of wealthy Virginia landowners, he lacked formal education but learned mathematics, trigonometry and land surveying and displayed a talent for drafting and mapmaking. He was appointed surveyor of Culpepper County in 1748, where he become familiar with the frontier. He joined the Virginia militia in 1752 as the British and French were competing to control the Ohio Valley, resigning his commission in 1758. In 1759 he married Martha Dandridge Custis, widow of a wealthy landowner, and settled into life as a planter and one of the wealthiest men in Virginia. He became active in politics as the British relationship with the colonies soured. When war came, Washington was the natural choice to lead the Continental Army due to his military experience and status as a prominent Virginian. After the war he returned to private life until he was persuaded to attend the Constitutional Convention of 1787 held to revise the Articles of Confederation. Once there he was unanimously elected to preside over the proceedings, which produced the U.S. Constitution. As president, he established a strong, wellfinanced national government and set many enduring precedents. His Farewell Address is regarded as a model of republicanism, and his eulogy recognized his by describing him as "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen".