

# How to Host an English Tea



Hosting an English Tea with family, friends, a women's group or book club can be a fun and tasty way to liven up your next get together. If you need recipe ideas, be sure to pick up "Regency Recipes," another free PDF from this website. [https://www.LinoreBurkard.com/resources

For your gathering, it may be helpful to get several people to bake or bring an appropriate goodie. Great examples include scones, English biscuits (ie., cookies), a tea cake, plus any

other quintessentially English treat you like, so long as there is a selection to choose from.

Consider the following ideas as optional. Depending on how authentic or fancy you want to be, choose whatever will help you create a fun experience; being strictly historical or proper is secondary. You'll find more ideas below than you need. But, don't worry, a teapot, English tea, and a simple sweet are the only necessities. After that, it's all icing.

- Start with a fancy tablecloth; lace, damask, sateen, lacy patterns over dark colors, all work well. If using a pretty patterned tea service, white or any complementary solid color will show it off best. Avoid a loud or colourful print as it will detract from the beauty of your elegant teapots and accessories.
- ❖ If you don't' have a tea service or enough cup and saucers for a group, make your party a "bring your own" favorite cup and saucer. The daintier and prettier, the better. Make sure to have a few extras however, in case someone doesn't have one to bring.
- ❖ Same for teapots. Avoid using one large, boring stainless steel urn. If someone happens to own an elegant tea urn, wonderful. If not, most women hang on to a pretty teapot or two. This is the perfect occasion to take them out and put them to good use!
- Use linen or fancy white napkins.
- Sugar and cream should be served from a handsome set, never the containers they are bought in.
- ❖ An old-fashioned epergne would sit well in the middle of the table (see picture at right, for one example). However, a modern three-tiered dessert



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server can be substituted quite satisfactorily.

- ❖ If evening gloves are available (and this is just for fun) wear them when pouring your tea. You'll be amazed at what a different feeling this will lend to the whole affair!
- ❖ A small dish of lemon slices is fine to have on hand.
- Dressing up in fancy clothes, especially for the younger set, always adds to the ambiance. If you have a Jane Austen group, consider inviting participants to wear their Regency best.

The most important elements of the affair are the people: have fun, enjoy light refreshments, get to know someone better, and perhaps hold a rousing book discussion afterward.

#### What to Serve:

For groups who wish to be more authentic, serve an English tea. If you have the time and inclination, there are English stores in the US, and if one isn't near you, look on Amazon. A few resources are listed below for your convenience.

#### Suggested tea brands:

- Taylors of Harrowgate
- Twinings of London, English Breakfast or Yorkshire Gold
- English Tea Shop
- ❖ P&G Tips
- Vadham

#### Suggested refreshments:

- Scones
- English biscuits
- ❖ A tea cake
- Seed cakes
- ❖ An English Trifle
- Crumpets

#### **Suggested Accompaniments:**

- Strawberry or Raspberry or Blackberry Jam
- ❖ Real Cream
- ❖ A Fruit Salad



A fully set and decorated tea table

Picture from www.georgianindex.com

#### Mail Order Sites for English Goods:

- www.britsuperstore.com
- www.britishfoodshop.com

Linore Rose Burkard is a serious watcher of period films, a Janeite, and hopeless romantic. An award winning author best known for Inspirational Regency Romance, her first book opened the genre for the CBA. Besides historical romance, Linore writes contemporary suspense, contemporary

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## **Books from Linore**

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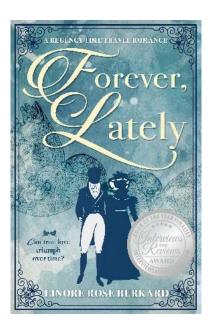
RESILIENCE: BOOK Two

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