



## David Morgan-Hewitt's Modern Manners - Using the correct title

### Using the correct title

Our system of titles here in England is completely unique and actually very complicated at first sight. However there are some simple rules which will help you to understand the whole puzzle and let you tip toe through the minefield with great precision!

The Royal Family stand at the top of the tree. The Monarch (Her Majesty) and her children (His or Her Royal Highness).

Below that but right at the top of the aristocracy is a Duke (His Grace) and Duchess (Her Grace). Next comes the Marquis (His Lordship) and his wife The Marchioness (Her Ladyship). The third level is an Earl (His Lordship) and his wife The Countess (Her Ladyship). All of these people have titles which refer to places (some now no longer in existence) Norfolk, Suffolk, Devonshire, Northampton etc.

Below this we have a range of Viscounts and Barons all of whom have hereditary titles that will pass on to their eldest sons.

Then we have an enormous number of Life Peers who are granted their titles for service to politics or the wider community. They hold the title only for life and do not pass it on. These will be created using their surname and a relevant place. So I might choose to become Lord Morgan-Hewitt of Belgravia if I ever were to be honoured. However, I am not holding my breath.

So I hope that makes it all a lot clearer. How to address their children is equally complicated and a subject for another Modern Manners!

