

Name: _____

Manners of Speaking

Directions: Read the article “A Maze of Manners” (page 12). Then read the story below, and answer the questions.

“Out of my way, I’m late!” screamed Jonah. He elbowed aside a few pedestrians so he could scramble onto the bus just in time. The driver yelled at Jonah for holding up the bus; under his breath, Jonah cursed at her. The bus was packed, so Jonah grabbed the last available seat—too bad for the kid on crutches who had to stand the whole way.

Jonah hadn’t had time to eat breakfast but had grabbed a few doughnuts on his way out of the house. He started to gulp them down, sprinkling crumbs everywhere and wiping his hands on his jeans. After letting out a belch, Jonah decided to catch up with his girlfriend by cell phone. “I can’t believe what happened on *American Idol* last night!” he shouted while chewing.

They talked about the show, and then the conversation turned to school and Jonah’s mock trial team competition later that day. Jonah didn’t look ready to stand before a judge—the shirt he’d dug up from the corner of his room was wrinkled, and his sneakers were full of holes.

“Later, jerks!” Jonah hollered when the bus arrived at school. He rolled his eyes when Principal Ferguson, standing at the entrance, said hello.

1. How many instances of Jonah’s bad manners did you find? List them.

2. What do you think was the worst thing Jonah did? Why?

3. If you were Jonah’s friend, how would you encourage him to improve his manners?
