

Tipping Traditions Around the World

Skills:

- Can develop a clear argument, expanding and supporting their points of view.
- Can account for and sustain their opinions in discussion by providing relevant explanations, arguments and comments.



1 Watch this funny video. What is it about? What problem is this guy facing? Discuss the following questions in pairs:



1. Do you believe tipping is necessary in restaurants?
2. What factors do you consider when deciding whether or not to tip?
3. Have you ever had a negative experience with tipping or not tipping?
4. Do you think the tipping culture varies in different countries?

2 Read the text about tipping in different cultures based on this article, and correct the false statements about it.

Different countries have different customs when it comes to tipping. Here are five places with their own unique tipping practices and some advice on how much to tip.

Japan

In Japan, it is not common to leave a tip. In fact, it can be seen as embarrassing or awkward. However, there is one exception. If you stay at a traditional Japanese guesthouse called a ryokan, you can leave money for the server who prepares your food and bed. But make sure to put the money in a special envelope instead of giving it directly.

Egypt

In Egypt, giving a tip is part of the culture. It is called baksheesh and is expected in many situations, such as at restaurants, in taxis, and at hotels. It is also seen as a way to make yourself holier in the Muslim religion. The amount of the tip can vary, but giving \$1-2 (or £30-40) is usually enough.

China

Tipping is not expected in China, although it is slowly becoming more accepted due to an increase in tourism and Western customs. Traditionally, tipping was not allowed because everyone is considered equal and no one should act superior to another. However, in certain situations, like at high-end hotels and fancy restaurants, it is now acceptable to give a small tip.

United States

Tipping is a big part of American culture. It is customary to add 20-25% to your bill at restaurants. Tipping is also expected in other places, such as taxis and hotels. There has been a rise in digital tipping options, making it even more complicated.

Denmark

In Denmark, tipping is not a common practice. This is because service staff already receive higher wages and benefits compared to other countries. Service charges are usually included in the bill at restaurants and hotels. However, rounding up the bill as a token gesture is appreciated. Additionally, exceptional service can be rewarded with a monetary tip or by becoming a loyal customer.

It's important to follow the local tipping customs and be respectful when traveling.

Statements:

1. Leaving a tip in Japan is a common practice.
2. Tipping is unacceptable in China, even if you give a small tip.
3. Tipping is not significant in Egypt.
4. In the United States, it is customary to add 40-45% to your bill at restaurants.
5. In Denmark, service staff earn less and get fewer benefits than in other countries, so getting tips is important for them.

3 You'll get a card with your location and a description of the situation you are in. Based on the text, answer these questions:

Should you tip?

Why/Why not?

If yes, how much?

4 Discuss in small groups and share your ideas with the rest of the group:

1. What are some ways you show appreciation for good service besides tipping?
2. How do you think cultural differences influence tipping customs around the world? Provide examples.

5 Check out four different opinions on tipping. Choose the one you agree with most and the one you disagree with most, and explain why. Provide a few arguments and examples to support your opinion.

I always make sure to tip generously when dining out. I remember working as a waitress during college, and relying on tips to pay my bills. It's important to show appreciation for good service.

Mike



I don't agree with the concept of tipping. I feel like it's the responsibility of the restaurant to pay their employees fairly. Tipping should be optional, not obligatory.

Samantha



I'm kind of torn on this issue. Sometimes I feel obligated to tip because it's the norm, but other times I wonder if it's really necessary. I guess it depends on the situation.

Emily



I am very passionate about tipping well. I believe in recognizing hard work and showing gratitude. I once had a waiter go above and beyond to make my birthday dinner special, so I left a big tip to thank him.

Alex



Positive experience

Country: Japan

Situation: You go to a restaurant and enjoy a traditional Japanese meal, the service is great.

Country: Egypt

Situation: You take a taxi ride from the airport to your hotel. It's clean and the driver is quiet and polite.

Country: China

Situation: You stay at a high-end hotel and receive excellent service from the staff.

Country: United States

Situation: You have a meal at a restaurant. The server provides great service, and you are happy with your meal.

Country: Denmark

Situation: You go to a café for a coffee, and the server is exceptionally friendly and helpful.

Country: Denmark

Situation: You go to a café for a coffee, and the server is exceptionally friendly and helpful.

Negative experience

Country: Japan

Situation: You go to a restaurant, but the service is slow and unfriendly.

Country: Egypt

Situation: You take a taxi, but the driver is rude and takes a longer route.

Country: China

Situation: You stay at a high-end hotel, but the staff is inattentive, and you experience delays in service.

Country: United States

Situation: You have a meal at a restaurant, but the service is poor, and the food takes a long time to arrive.

Country: Denmark

Situation: You go to a café for a coffee, but the waiter is inattentive, and you have to wait a long time.

Correct answers

1 Made in “Audio & Video Discussion Questions”.

2 The article was simplified in the “Simplify&Upgrade” tool. The statements were generated in “True/False”.

1. It is not common to leave a tip in Japan.
2. Tipping is slowly becoming more accepted due to an increase in tourism and Western customs.
3. Tipping is a big part of American culture.
4. It is customary to add 20-25% to your bill at restaurants.
5. Service staff in Denmark receive higher wages and benefits compared to other countries and service charges are usually included in the bill.

3 Inspired by the “Lead-in Activities” tool. Print out the cards from Page 3.

Positive experience

Country: Japan

Tipping is not common in Japan, and it could be seen as awkward. You should not tip at a restaurant.

Country: Egypt

Tipping is expected in Egypt, and it is called baksheesh. For a taxi ride, you should tip about \$1-2 (or E£30-40).

Country: China

Tipping is not traditionally expected, but it is becoming more accepted in high-end hotels. You can give a small tip for excellent service at such hotels.

Country: United States

Tipping is a big part of American culture, with 20-25% as the usual range in restaurants. For a meal at a restaurant, you should tip within this range.

Country: Denmark

Tipping is not common in Denmark, but rounding up the bill or giving a small tip for exceptional service is appreciated. For friendly and helpful service at a café, rounding up the bill or giving a small monetary tip would be appropriate.

Negative experience

Country: Japan

Tipping is not a common practice in Japan. It doesn't matter if the service is good or bad, you should not tip at a restaurant.

Country: Egypt

In Egypt, tipping is expected in taxis. Even if the driver is rude, you are still expected to tip, but you might consider a smaller amount, such as \$1 or E£20.

Country: China

Tipping is not generally expected in China, even at high-end hotels. If the service is poor, you might decide not to tip at all.

Country: United States

Tipping is a big part of American culture, but poor service could justify a smaller tip. If you have bad service at a restaurant, consider tipping 10-15%, reflecting your dissatisfaction.

Country: Denmark

Tipping is not common in Denmark, and service charges are usually included. If the service is bad at a café, there's no need to tip, but you can round up the bill if you wish.

4 Created in the “Discussion Questions” tool.

5 Created in the “Four Opinions” tool.

twee

Tweak your lessons
with the power of AI