

## BEFORE YOU READ

**WARM-UP** In your opinion, why is it important to understand the customs of other countries?

## READING ▶ 5:34

# When Should I Tip?

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Never tip in these countries:

Japan  
Korea  
Malaysia  
New Zealand  
Singapore  
Thailand  
United Arab Emirates  
Vietnam

## It's the question every traveler asks.

In some countries around the world, you never have to tip. But in most countries—at least 180 of them—tipping is customary, and the rules can be quite complicated.

### Restaurants

In the U.S., restaurant servers expect a tip of 15 to 20% of the check—depending on how satisfied you are with the service. In most other countries, however, it's about 10%. In the U.S., you leave your tip on the table. But in Austria and Germany, it's considered rude if you don't hand the tip directly to the server.

In Europe, restaurants almost always add a service charge to the check, so you don't need to leave a separate tip. But in the U.S., a service charge is only added for groups of six or more people. So it's a good idea to look carefully at your check!

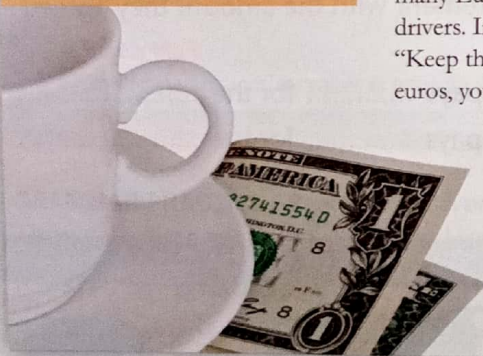
### Taxis

In the U.S. and Canada, taxi drivers expect a tip of 15% of the taxi fare. However, in South America and many European countries, you don't usually tip taxi drivers. Instead, you can round off the fare and say, "Keep the change." (For example, if the fare is 3.80 euros, you just round it off to 4 euros.)

### Hotels

What about the porter who carries your luggage? In Australia, you tip about AUS \$3 (US \$2) per bag. But in most countries, a tip of about US \$1 is fine. You can also leave about US \$1 to \$2 a day for the housekeeper who cleans your hotel room.

So check the Internet for information on tipping customs before you travel. And remember: You *never* have to tip if the service is terrible.



**A CLASSIFY** Circle two answers to each question, according to information in the Reading. Then explain.

- In which countries is tipping customary?  
a Thailand      b New Zealand      c Australia      d Austria
- In which countries do they almost always add a service charge to restaurant bills?  
a France      b the U.S.      c Germany      d United Arab Emirates
- Who expects a U.S. \$1 or \$2 tip in most countries where tipping is customary?  
a hotel clerks      b hotel porters      c hotel housekeepers      d taxi drivers
- In which countries should you never leave a tip on the table?  
a the U.S.      b Japan      c Germany      d Australia



- B DRAW CONCLUSIONS** Read each person's question. Give advice, according to the Reading. Underline the place in the Reading where you can find the information.

“My class is flying to a sports event in Canberra, Australia, next week. I have two large bags. **If a porter helps me, how much should I tip?**”



“I'm going to Chicago, in the U.S., on business. Let's say I take ten clients out for lunch and the bill is US \$400. **How much more should I leave for the tip?**”



“I'm going to New Zealand. I'm staying in a nice hotel for about six days. **How much should I tip the housekeeper?**”



“I'm going to be in Toronto, Canada, this weekend. Someone told me the fare from the airport is CAN \$43. **How much should I tip the driver?**”



- C APPLY INFORMATION** Imagine that you are visiting one of the countries in the Reading. Describe a situation in a restaurant, a taxi, or a hotel. Your classmates decide how much to tip.

## NOW YOU CAN Discuss showing appreciation for service

- A FRAME YOUR IDEAS** How have you shown appreciation to someone for good service? Complete the questionnaire. Then tell a partner about your experiences.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I left a tip.       | <input type="checkbox"/> I wrote a “thank-you” note.      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I gave a gift.      | <input type="checkbox"/> I sent an e-mail to the manager. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I said “Thank you.” | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                     |

“Last year, I went to a restaurant, and the waiter was really nice. At the end of the meal, I spoke to the manager about his great service.”

- B NOTEADDING** With a partner, write suggestions to a visitor to your country for how to show appreciation for good service. What should you do or say? Use your questionnaire above for examples.

Restaurant servers:
Taxi drivers:
Hotel housekeepers:
Hotel luggage porters:
Airport luggage porters:
Other:

- C DISCUSSION** Now discuss how to show appreciation for good service in your country. What are the customs? Does everyone agree?

### Text-mining (optional)

Find and underline three words or phrases in the Reading that were new to you. Use them in your Discussion.  
For example: “expect a tip.”