

Tipping



In many countries, it is normal for people to give a small amount of money to a worker who helps or serves them. This is called a tip. People from cultures where there is no tipping often get confused when traveling abroad. Here is some advice about tipping to help you:

1. There is no rule about tipping that works in every country. In some countries, like Albania, it is normal to tip nearly everyone all the time. In other countries, such as Canada, only taxi drivers and wait staff expect a tip. In other countries, you should never tip. In China, for example, it is considered insulting to tip someone.
2. It is always a good idea to pay a tip using cash. If you tip with a credit card, the money may go to the owner of the company instead of your waiter or driver. They might also need to wait for days or weeks to receive your tip.
3. There is no rule about the amount you need to tip. In most countries where tipping happens, a 10% to 15% tip would be normal. Of course, you don't need to give a tip if the service is poor. You can also tip more than 15% if you feel the service was particularly good.
4. Tips are sometimes included in the bill. Before you decide to pay a tip, check your bill very carefully. Quite often, the tip is already added in as a "service charge" and added to the total on the bill.

By the way, the biggest tip ever given was \$3 million! In 1984, a New York City police officer named Robert Cunningham was eating at his favorite restaurant. He didn't have enough money for a tip so he told his waitress, Phyllis Penzo, he would share his money with her if he won the lottery. When Cunningham won the lottery, he kept his promise and split the money with the waitress.



1. You should always tip people in every country you visit.
 - a) True
 - b) False

2. Why is it a good idea to pay a tip with cash instead of credit card?
 - a) someone might steal your credit card
 - b) another person might get the tip
 - c) some places don't accept credit cards
 - d) tipping with a credit card is very rude

3. You should always give a tip, even if the service was very poor.
 - a) True
 - b) False

4. Why should you always check your bill before you give a tip?
 - a) the tip might be included in the bill
 - b) the tip might not be enough
 - c) your waiter might have made a mistake
 - d) it is very polite to check your bill

5. Robert Cunningham told Phyllis Penzo he would share his lottery winnings with her because:
 - a) he was in love with her
 - b) she was a very good waitress
 - c) she won the lottery
 - d) he didn't have enough for a tip

Answers: 1. (b) 2. (b) 3. (b) 4. (a) 5. (d)

