

TO TIP OR NOT TO TIP

Canadians and Americans usually tip in places like restaurants, airport, hotels, and hair salons because many people who work in these places get low salaries. A tip shows that the customer is pleased with the service.

At airports, porters usually get a dollar tip for each bag. Hotel bellhops usually get a dollar for carrying one or two suitcases. A hotel door attendant or parking valet also gets about a dollar for getting a taxi or for parking a car. Many people also tip hotel room attendants, especially when they stay in a hotel for several days. They usually leave a dollar for each day.

The usual tip for other kinds of services- for example, for taxi drivers, barbers, hairdressers, waiters, and waitresses- is between 10 and 20 percent of the bill. The size of the tip depends on how pleased the customer is. In most restaurants, the check does not include a service charge. There is no tipping in cafeterias or fast-food restaurants.

Vocabularies:

Suitcase – briefcase; bag; baggage

Bellhops – servant; bellboy

Attendant – server; aide; assistant

Tip – fee; gift

Cafeterias – restaurants; eating house; diner

Expressions:

The size of the tip depends on how pleased the customer is.

A tip shows that the customer is pleased with the service.

Think and Talk:

1. How much should you tip someone in North America who:
takes your bag at an airport?
Parks your car at a hotel or restaurant?
serves you in a fast-food restaurant?
2. Do you think tipping is a good or bad custom? Why?