

Test Your Tipping Knowledge!

- Where and when did tipping originate?*
 - in Europe during the Middle Ages
 - in English pubs during the 17th Century
 - in China during the Tung dynasty (620 to 905 AD)
- When did tipping come to the U.S.?*
 - before 1776
 - around 1850
 - after 1901
- How much are people expected to tip for average or normal service in U.S. restaurants?*
 - a couple of dollars
 - at least 10%
 - at least 15%
 - at least 20%
- What percentage of people in the U.S. usually tip restaurant servers?*
 - 77 percent
 - 89 percent
 - 98 percent
- What is the average tip percentage left in U.S. restaurants?*
 - 7%
 - 11%
 - 15%
 - 18%
- What percentage of most waiters' and waitresses' take home pay comes from tips as opposed to hourly wages?*
 - less than 30 percent
 - about 50 percent
 - more than 90 percent
- What city in the U.S. has the highest average restaurant tip?*
 - Chicago
 - Houston
 - Los Angeles
 - Philadelphia
- Which of the following has the biggest effect on the size of restaurant tips?*
 - customers' ratings of the service
 - paying with credit as opposed to cash
 - alcohol consumption
 - server touching the customer
- In which of the following states was tipping outlawed for a brief time during the early 1900s?*
 - California
 - New York
 - Tennessee
 - Texas
- What does the word for tip in many languages mean when translated directly into English?*
 - bribe
 - gift
 - reward
 - drink money

(answers on back)

Tipping Knowledge Answers

- Q1: A.** Craftsman Albrecht Durer asked for a "trinkgeld," or tip, for his apprentice in a letter to a customer written in 1509. So tipping dates back at least that far.
- Q2: A.** Records dating back to 1772 indicate that Thomas Jefferson tipped and George Washington is known to have tipped his brother-in-law's slaves in 1768.
- Q3: C.** It is customary to tip 15% for acceptable, normal service and 20% or more for excellent service.
- Q4: C.** A national telephone survey found that only 2 percent of respondents said they do not tip waiters and waitresses.
- Q5: D.** According to Zagat Surveys, the average national tip is 18.6% of the bill.
- Q6: C.** Most servers make less than the minimum wage and tax withholding often eats up all of their wages. So tips represent 100 percent of many servers' take-home pay.
- Q7: D.** According to Zagat Surveys, Philadelphians lead the nation in tipping with an average tip of 19.2%.
- Q8: D.** The effects on tip size of the server touching his or her customer are more than 5 times as strong as the effects of customers' service ratings, payment with credit, or alcohol consumption.
- Q9: C.** In the early 1900s, not only Tennessee, but Arkansas, Iowa, Mississippi, and South Carolina all passed laws prohibiting tipping.
- Q10: D.** The word for tip translates to "drink money" or its equivalent in Austria, Belgium, Bosnia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Norway, Slovakia, Sweden, and Vietnam. The next most common meaning is "tea money."

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