

## TIPPING: HOW MUCH AND WHEN?

We don't get to do it often, partly because with our family size, eating out is expensive. But mainly because we are bears and tend to empty a restaurant of other diners. But at the end of a good meal, and you are handed that bill, it is customary to "tip" the waiter. This is our way of saying to the waiter, "Wow, you did a great job! Thank you and here is some extra money." Most waiters count on this, as the pay without it would be super low.

## FLIP OVER FOR YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE



### EARN THIS NUGGET

Calculate the tip amount you would choose to leave for a meal that cost \$28.36 with great service. Next calculate the amount you would leave for a meal costing \$9.28 with terrible service. After that, calculate the tip you would leave if you received just okay service for your \$38.50 meal. And lastly, let's say you enjoyed a meal costing \$29.58 and it was the best server you ever met. Share your tip amounts with your parents and see if they have any wisdom to add.

So how much should you give? Well, I'm pretty sure you'll never get a complaint if you tip too much, but there is a rule of thumb. Tradition suggests between fifteen and twenty percent, ten is considered a bare minimum.

- The first question to ask yourself is about the service. Did the person do an average job? Or did they blow your socks off with amazing service and a cheerful interaction? Typically, restaurant goers adjust the tip amount accordingly.
- What if the service was terrible? Some people will give a low tip or no tip. Some people assume that the server must have been having a bad day, and do what they can to improve it. That, my RockHopper, is up to you.
- Also, be aware that some restaurants calculate the "gratuity" (a fancy name for the tip) into the price already, so look for that.

• What about take out? Again, this is down to you. Some folks don't think there's a need for a tip as they didn't receive service from a wait staff. On the other hand, someone had to package the food and keep an eye on it until the customer arrived, so some people often provide a 10% gratuity as a thank you. In my experience, this usually surprises the restaurant staff and they're very appreciative. Now, how are we going to calculate the tip? It's pretty easy really; if you had a meal that cost \$22.56, and you wanted to go 10%, you are looking at \$2.26. If you want to pay 20% because of exceptional service, double it for a tip of \$4.52. If you were super impressed, round up to \$5.00. If it was a 15% meal in your estimation, then it is the original \$2.26 plus an additional \$1.13. Frankly, it does not have to be exact, just in the ballpark. Using the ten percent quick calculation and then modifying based on the level of service makes working out a tip a breeze.

