

British Tipping Etiquette

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British tipping etiquette, a sum of money tendered service sector workers for a service performed or anticipated, is a generous way of showing appreciation for those who help you, and one of most significant behaviors we must learn and practice correctly if we don't want to be strange and impolite when for the first time we visit a foreign country, which has a complete and complex system, ranging different percent of the bill in different situations and countries around the world where tipping etiquette is practiced.

The main purpose of this research is to learn and understand British tipping culture and know how to tip correctly in different situations in the UK.

What did I research? I have researched British tipping etiquette through five parts. First, I researched its development history and something attractive about the origins of tipping. Second, I studied some principles of tipping, including the person who to tip, the amount of percentage, tipping on different occasions and so on. Then I compared British tipping etiquette and its requirements with other countries. What's more, I found out people's attitudes towards tipping, both positive and negative, and explore the meaning of tipping. Finally, I understood some deeper reasons and backgrounds of its rationality of existence and some factual dilemmas.

What did I discover? Basically, I learned its development history and the principles of tipping. First of all, tipping is a custom from Europe, which may have originated in the taverns of 17th Century England. Then, when it comes to the principles of tipping, first I have learned that not everyone in the service industry is expected to be tipped. Instead, there are many professions where you don't need to tip for the reason that they pay well and you've already paid for their services, such as accountants, financial advisors and lawyers, doctors and nurses, mechanics and plumbers, teachers and Little League Coaches. For example, if parents tipping teachers can easily be mistaken for making a shameful deal for their children's

grades. Besides, about how much to tip, there are three common ways of determining the amount of a tip:

1. **Rounding up**, the most common way used in daily life. For example, the bill is £47.39, pay £50 and say "keep the change". Before tipping, a quick calculation to make sure you're not giving too much, more than 15% would be too much.

2. **Percentage**, a way that can be used a more accurate fixed ratio to calculate the amount. There is a rough range of percentages ranging differently in different service environments in different countries that you can use to calculate accurately.

3. **A cash donation from each diner**. It is more common when dining with a group of friends where everyone is paying for themselves. The basic bill is paid and then everyone chips in something from the pocket change and leaves it as a tip.

4. **There are also some other ways**: online tip calculator or some tip calculator applications such as Tip N Split Tip Calculator, Gratuity, Global Tipping, Plates by Splitwise and Tip Me.

What's more? I researched how much to tip and when to tip. First, tipping in UK restaurants is very common. We can tip 10 to 15% of the bill. However, keep in mind that some restaurants include a tip in our bill for their service, so be careful not to tip twice. Second, tipping in hotels works much like in restaurants. Usually, hotels also include an additional charge of around 10% to 12%. In a five-star hotel, it is very common to tip porters, one or two pounds for helping with your baggage, and tip room service from £1 to £5. Then, tipping our guides is also something familiar to UK tipping customs. If we're really satisfied with our guided tour, we can tip £1 to £4. Tipping the driver of our group is totally acceptable as well. Usually, there is a kind of a tip box close to the door where we can leave our extra coins. I recommend we tip £1 to £4 to the driver. And different from Americans, tipping in British pubs is less common. In fact, it would not be recommended to tip in pubs. But if you're a regular customer, you can get the waiter a drink and that's still just fine. The last one, keep in mind that it is definitely not common in the UK to tip for takeaways.

What was the most interesting or unusual or surprising discovery? There are also some different interesting explanations, for example the stories in 18th century England. There was a popular coffee house equipped with a coin box with a label that read "To Insure Promptness". Putting a coin into the box would result in quick service and the first

letter of word make up T, I, P. That's tip. In addition, tipping etiquette gradually spread to the USA, where it began tipping after the American Civil War in the late 1800's. Some scholars think that wealthy Americans traveling abroad to Europe witnessed tipping and brought the aristocratic custom back with them to "show off," or prove their elevated education and class.

What was the deepest or most complex discovery? When I researched question that shall we tip in cash or card, I found that to answer this question, we first need to understand a concept. Service charges. Most of these are added to the bill before it's given to the customer. It is compulsory. Most people think they tip the right person, but sometimes someone else gets this money, which depends on the tipping principles in that organization. At some companies, all money collected from tipping is used to supply the company's specific administrative costs. This is especially common in those places where customers prefer to tip on a card. So, cash is more recommended. This is actually an issue in the UK for some people are dissatisfied and opposed to it, and the Government has already presented plans to ban restaurants from keeping tips given to their employees.

I also researched British people's attitudes to service charges I say above. How do they feel about service charges? YouGov did a survey on their attitudes to service charges. They asked if British people have ever removed an automatic service charge from a bill. We can see, in the first picture, overall, 48% of British people say they have asked for a service charge to be removed in the past, with 10% of them doing so every time they are asked to pay one, while only 37% of them have never asked to remove the additional charge. Some British also see it as more of a suggested gratuity, with 53% saying it's the same as leaving a tip, and



that they would rather leave cash. But why do British refuse to pay service charges in their bill? In the second picture, the top answer is receiving poor service, so we can see most people are willing to pay for it

unless their service is really bad. But 14% of them say they prefer to leave a cash tip rather than pay a service charge, and 11% of them who have refused service charges in the past have done so because they aren't sure if the charge

goes directly to staff. This could be because they also say they are not confident that tips paid using credit and debit cards are actually passed on to staff.

All in all, the social phenomenon behind tipping gave me a deeper understanding. After all, the search for information is limited, but if I go abroad in the future, maybe I can learn more about its principles and profound social systems on the spot.

