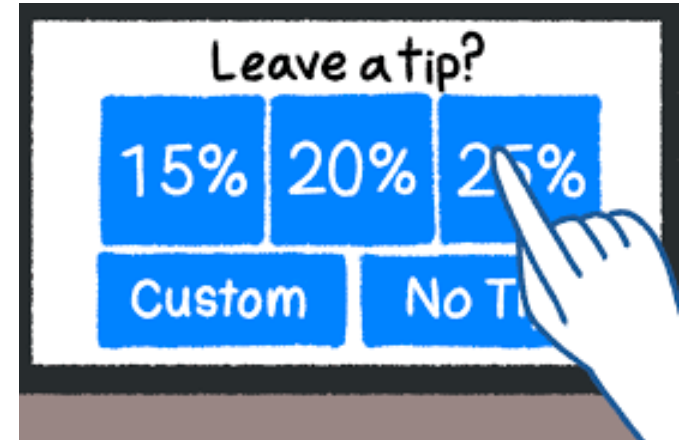


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Hello everyone!

The topic for today's class is: [U.S. Tipping Culture: Should you tip?](#)
We are being asked to tip more and in more places today, sparking a debate about whether people should feel obligated to tip. What should we do?



AGENDA:

1. Review video/video vocabulary: *Which Service Workers Should You Tip?*
2. Discussion questions: breakout rooms, small groups
3. Wrap-up: large group questions and comments

Reminder: *The focus of the class is on conversation to improve fluency and vocabulary at the intermediate/advanced level. Mistakes are OK! We are here to help each other.*



YouTube Video: Which Service Workers Should You Tip?

Vocabulary:

- “losing it”
- gratuity
- “guilt tip”
- berate
- etiquette
- “no brainer”
- barista



Which Service Workers Should You Tip?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mNUk0wrhetc>

Questions for discussion: U.S. Tipping Culture: Should you tip?

1. “When in Rome, do as the Romans” Are we obligated to follow local custom while being a guest in another country? (i.e. should we tip service workers, wait our turn in line, not speak loudly in public places, ask for discounts, etc.)
2. Have you ever been in a situation where you were unsure whether to tip or how much to tip? How did you handle it?
3. Some people believe “No one is entitled to a tip. A tip is earned, not given.” How do you feel about tipping when the service is not satisfactory? Do you still leave a tip? Why or why not?
5. Why is tipping expected in certain U.S. industries?
4. What is your home country’s tipping culture? Is tipping expected, and in which situations?



FYI . . .



California State Minimum Wage for Service Workers

In California, the minimum wage for service workers, including tipped workers, is the same as the state's regular minimum wage. California is one of the few states that does not have a separate, lower minimum wage for tipped employees. Employers are required to pay the full minimum wage regardless of the tips workers receive.

Current Minimum Wage in California (2024):

For employers with 26 or more employees: \$16 per hour

For employers with 25 or fewer employees: \$15 per hour

Tipped Workers:

In California, unlike many other states, tips are in addition to the full state minimum wage, meaning service workers earn at least the minimum wage in base pay, plus whatever tips they receive. This system helps ensure that tipped workers have a more stable income base, compared to states where tipped workers earn a much lower hourly wage and rely heavily on tips to reach the minimum wage.