



Tipping is one of the most difficult and confusing aspects of etiquette today. Tipping is a significant way to show appreciation for a job well done; however, treating the person who has served you with respect is every bit important. Furthermore, praising the person himself, or, when you can, commending him to his supervisor, can go a very long way toward letting him know what constitutes good service. Standard tipping guidelines can be found in our [General Tipping Guidelines](#) article, but here is some advice on some of the finer points in tipping.

Always treat servers with respect.

Leaving a generous tip doesn't make up for ordering someone around or treating them dismissively. While tipping augments servers' incomes and rewards them for a job well done, treating them kindly is just as important.

Try to carry some cash.

Some places it is not possible to put a tip on a card.

If you are in doubt about whether to tip, ask in advance.

If a department store is scheduled to deliver a new sofa, call and ask someone in the furniture department whether tipping is customary; in a hair salon, ask the receptionist. In some

situations, leaving a tip could be seen as demeaning. Taking the time to find out what's expected can spare you an embarrassing moment.

It is acceptable to tip on the pre-tax amount of the bill.

For large parties this can be quite different than the total.

Tipping discreetly is classy.

Tipping is a private matter. Don't act like a "big spender" and flash a lot of bills.

Money is the tip of choice.

Sometimes a small gift, usually given during the holidays, can be substituted for cash. In the case of a hairdresser, for example, this gift can "top off" the cash tips you've given over the year.