

*NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript*

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Do you leave a **tip** when you pay for a meal? And how much do you tip?

Michael Lynn from Cornell University thinks that tipping is worth about \$40bn each year. That's more than twice the **budget** of NASA.

Indeed, many people say America is the most 'tip-friendly' country on earth. In New York, leaving a tip of around 20% in restaurants is normal. This compares to around 11% in London.

Why is it so much higher? Mainly because the **wages** of restaurant workers in the US are usually lower, so the tip is a very important part of their **income**.

But now some restaurants are trying something different. Sushi Yasuda restaurant in New York has **banned** tips because they say their staff are already well-paid, and because it makes the **dining** experience simpler for customers.

And which countries don't expect tips at all? In Singapore tipping is very rare, and in Fiji, Iceland and Japan, it can cause **embarrassment** and **offence**.

## Vocabulary

### tip

small amount of money that you give to a person who gives you a service

### budget

the amount of money you can spend on something

### wages

money you earn from working

### income

money people receive, usually from working

**banned**

officially not allowed

**dining**

eating a meal

**embarrassment**

feeling shy

**offence**

feeling upset, hurt or annoyed

This story is based on an original BBC News story:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-22846846>