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Level 1 – 2nd July 2026

Soccer World Cup fans struggle with tipping culture

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260702-tipping-world-cup-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260702-tipping-world-cup-1.html>

Fans at the soccer World Cup are struggling with tipping. Many fans are from countries where people do not tip at restaurants. In the USA, tips of up to 20 per cent are common. If diners do not leave a tip, staff can be disappointed. Fans have already spent a lot of money getting to the World Cup. Leaving tips makes their trip more expensive. Some fans are complaining about "tipping fatigue". They say they have to tip when they buy a bottle of water.

Restaurant staff are also struggling. Tips make up for their very low wages. Workers' wages can be as low as \$2.13 per hour. Many staff say it is impossible to survive as a restaurant worker without tips. In many cities, restaurant owners are adding tips to their bills. The owners say many international visitors do not know about the tipping culture in the USA. In some restaurants, staff are explaining to diners the reasons for tipping.

Sources: <https://www.kansascity.com/opinion/article316235100.html>
<https://nypost.com/2026/06/20/us-news/world-cup-tourists-arent-leaving-tips-and-nyc-restaurants-are-fighting-back/>
<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/insight/world-cup-fans-voice-frustration-over-us-tipping-culture/gm-GMF63F5E51>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260702-tipping-world-cup-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. fans at the | a. leave a tip |
| 2. countries where people | b. to tip |
| 3. tips of up | c. soccer World Cup |
| 4. diners do not | d. a lot of money |
| 5. staff can be | e. to 20 per cent |
| 6. Fans have already spent | f. fatigue |
| 7. fans are complaining about tipping | g. do not tip |
| 8. They say they have | h. disappointed |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Restaurant staff are also | a. \$2.13 per hour |
| 2. Tips make up for their very | b. to their bills |
| 3. wages can be as low as | c. low wages |
| 4. Many staff say it | d. diners |
| 5. survive as a restaurant worker | e. is impossible |
| 6. owners are adding tips | f. the tipping culture |
| 7. visitors do not know about | g. struggling |
| 8. staff are explaining to | h. without tips |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260702-tipping-world-cup-1.html>

Fans at the soccer World Cup (1) _____ tipping. Many fans are from countries where people (2) _____ at restaurants. In the USA, tips of up to 20 per cent are common. If (3) _____ leave a tip, staff can be disappointed. Fans have already spent a lot (4) _____ to the World Cup. Leaving tips makes their trip more expensive. Some fans are complaining (5) _____. They say they have to tip when they (6) _____ of water.

Restaurant staff are also struggling. Tips (7) _____ their very low wages. Workers' wages can (8) _____ as \$2.13 per hour. Many staff say it is impossible (9) _____ a restaurant worker without tips. In many cities, restaurant (10) _____ tips to their bills. The owners say many international visitors do (11) _____ the tipping culture in the USA. In some restaurants, staff are explaining to (12) _____ for tipping.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260702-tipping-world-cup-1.html>

Fans at the soccer World Cup are struggling with tipping. Many fans are from countries where people do not tip at restaurants. In the USA, tips of up to 20 percent are common. If diners do not leave a tip, staff can be disappointed. Fans have already spent a lot of money getting to the World Cup. Leaving tips make their trip more expensive. Some fans are complaining about "tipping fatigue". They say they have to tip when they buy a bottle of water. Restaurant staff are also struggling. Tips make up for their very low wages. Workers' wages can be as low as \$2.13 per hour. Many staff say it is impossible to survive as a restaurant worker without tips. In many cities, restaurant owners are adding tips to their bills. The owners say many international visitors do not know about the tipping culture in the USA. In some restaurants, staff are explaining to diners the reasons for tipping.

TIPPING SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260702-tipping-world-cup-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about tipping in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

