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Level 2 – 2nd July 2026

Soccer World Cup fans struggle with tipping culture

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260702-tipping-world-cup-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260702-tipping-world-cup-2.html>

Football fans at the World Cup are struggling with the tipping culture. Many fans are from countries where service charges are already in the price of food at restaurants. However, in the USA, tips of up to 20 per cent are expected. If diners do not leave a tip, the staff can be disappointed. Fans have already spent a lot of money on going to the World Cup. They are stretching their budgets. Leaving tips makes food more expensive. Some fans are complaining about "tipping fatigue". They say they have to leave a tip even when they buy a bottle of water.

Restaurant staff in the USA are also struggling. Tips make up for their very low wages. Workers' wages can be as little as \$2.13 per hour. Without receiving tips, staff may not earn enough money to live on. Many staff say it is impossible to survive as a restaurant worker without tips. In many host cities, restaurant owners are automatically adding tips to their bills. The owners say many international visitors are unaware of the tipping culture in the USA. Some restaurants have asked staff to explain 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-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Football fans | a. are expected |
| 2. service charges are already in | b. "tipping fatigue" |
| 3. tips of up to 20 per cent | c. leave a tip |
| 4. diners do not | d. disappointed |
| 5. staff can be | e. at the World Cup |
| 6. spent a lot of money on | f. their budgets |
| 7. They are stretching | g. the price |
| 8. fans are complaining about | h. going |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Tips make up for | a. tips to their bills |
| 2. workers | b. \$2.13 per hour |
| 3. as little as | c. for tipping |
| 4. staff may not earn enough | d. wages |
| 5. staff say it is impossible | e. their very low wages |
| 6. owners are automatically adding | f. of the tipping culture |
| 7. visitors are unaware | g. to survive |
| 8. explain to diners the reasons | h. money to live on |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260702-tipping-world-cup-2.html>

Football (1) _____ World Cup are struggling with the tipping culture. Many fans are from countries where (2) _____ already in the price of food at restaurants. However, in the USA, (3) _____ to 20 per cent are expected. If diners do not leave a tip, the staff can be disappointed. Fans have already (4) _____ of money on going to the World Cup. They are stretching their budgets. Leaving tips (5) _____ expensive. Some fans are complaining about "tipping fatigue". They say they have to (6) _____ even when they buy a bottle of water.

Restaurant staff in the USA are also struggling. (7) _____ for their very low wages. Workers' wages can (8) _____ as \$2.13 per hour. Without receiving tips, staff may not (9) _____ to live on. Many staff say it is impossible to survive as a restaurant worker without tips. In (10) _____, restaurant owners are automatically adding tips to their bills. The owners say many international visitors (11) _____ the tipping culture in the USA. Some restaurants have asked staff to (12) _____ the reasons for tipping.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260702-tipping-world-cup-2.html>

Football fans at the World Cup are struggling with the tipping culture. Many fans are from countries where service charges are already in the price of food at restaurants. However, in the USA, tips of up to 20 percent are expected. If diners do not leave a tip, the staff can be disappointed. Fans have already spent a lot of money on going to the World Cup. They are stretching their budgets. Leaving tips makes food more expensive. Some fans are complaining about "tipping fatigue". They say they have to leave a tip even when they buy a bottle of water. Restaurant staff in the USA are also struggling. Tips make up for their very low wages. Workers' wages can be as little as \$2.13 per hour. Without receiving tips, staff may not earn enough money to live on. Many staff say it is impossible to survive as a restaurant worker without tips. In many host cities, restaurant owners are automatically adding tips to their bills. The owners say many international visitors are unaware of the tipping culture in the USA. Some restaurants have asked staff to explain to diners the reasons for tipping.

TIPPING SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260702-tipping-world-cup-2.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) _____

