

PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES: Culture and People



Practical Case

Tips on tipping.

Did you know that tipping can be insulting in Japan?

Were you aware that many European hotels and restaurants add the tip to your bill?

Tipping can be a puzzling experience for overseas travellers. It's commonplace in some countries, in others it's expected only in major cities, and in some it simply isn't done. The rules are also in a constant state of change, so what was appropriate the last time you visited your favorite foreign destination may be completely inappropriate the next time you go.

A tipping guide is usually designed to advise travellers of common tipping practices in different countries. Please remember, however, that it is only a guide - tipping is a reward for good service, and in the end the value is up to you.

General Tipping Information:

Asia and the Pacific: Special care must be taken to insure that your well-meaning gesture is not taken as insulting. If you are unsure, it is best not to tip. If possible, observe the locals and follow their lead.

Europe: Many hotels and restaurants add a service charge to the bill. In most cases, an additional tip is unnecessary. If no service charge is added to your bill, 10% is the general rule for restaurant service, while a dollar per bag will be appreciated.

Middle East/Africa: While your tip will not be seen as insulting, it may be unnecessary. Once again, the best bet is to do as the locals do.

Central/South America: Many hotels and restaurants add a service charge to the bill, and an additional tip is unnecessary. If not, 10% is the general rule for restaurant service, and a dollar per bag will be appreciated.



Self-evaluation

Decide if the following are true or false:
You should always remember to tip in Japan.

- True.
- False.

The tip can be included in the bill.

- True.
- False.

There is a fixed set of tipping rules.

- True.
- False.

It is always a good idea to do as locals do.

- True.
- False.



A step ahead

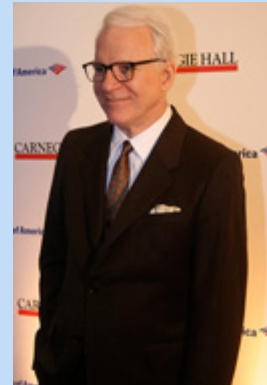
Visit this site for information on tipping in different situations.

[Tipping Guide.](#)

1. Means of transport in films

From **Murder on the Orient Express** to **Airplane!** and the **Fast and Furious** series many films feature means of transport. Thrillers, comedies or docudramas, they all have it in common. **United 93** is a real time account of the events on United Flight 93, one of the planes hijacked on 9/11 that crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania when passengers foiled the terrorist plot. In the hilarious comedy **Airplane!** an airplane crew takes ill. Surely the only person capable of landing the plane is an ex-pilot afraid to fly. But don't call him Shirley. **Airport** is a melodrama about a bomber on board an airplane, an airport almost closed by snow, and various personal problems of the people involved. In **Murder on the Orient Express**, when his train is stopped by deep snow, detective Hercule Poirot is called on to solve a murder that occurred in his car the night before.

In **Planes, Trains and Automobiles** (1987), all Neal Page (Steve Martin) wants to do is make it home from a business trip in New York City and spend Thanksgiving with his family in Chicago. Instead, he finds himself rerouted from New York's La Guardia Airport to Wichita, Kansas. With no other options, Neal decides to share a room in a fleabag hotel with Del Griffith (John Candy), a shower-curtain-ring salesman and fellow stranded traveler. Although Neal considers Del a buffoon, he just can't seem to get away from him. To make matters worse, all their efforts to get back to Chicago fail as trains break down and rental cars catch on fire. Along the way they encounter crazy cabbies, redneck truck drivers, and oversexed bus passengers.



A step ahead

This film features fine performances from Martin and Candy. You can watch them at their best here.

Neal: He says we're going the wrong way...

Del: Oh, he's drunk. How would he know where we're going?

[Text summary](#)

2. Travel writing

Many works of fiction feature travel of some sort. In this unit we focus on the novel ***The Beach***. ***The Beach*** (1996), by Alex Garland, is about backpackers in Thailand. Influenced by such literary works as **Heart of Darkness** and **Lord of the Flies**, it describes the adventures of a young Englishman in search of a legendary, idyllic beach untouched by tourism. It was made into a film starring Leonardo di Caprio in 2000.



Read and listen to the text by novelist Alex Garland.

[Script](#)

A few years ago I was going through the process of splitting up with my first serious girlfriend. She went away to Greece for the summer and when she came back she'd had a holiday romance with some Belgian guy. As if that wasn't enough, it seemed that the guy in question was going to show up in London some time over the next few weeks. After three hellish days and nights, I realised that I was dangerously close to losing my head. I biked over to my dad's flat and emotionally blackmailed him into lending me enough cash to leave the country.

On that trip I learnt something very important. Escape through travel works. Almost from the moment I boarded my flight, life in England became meaningless. Seat-belt signs lit up, problems switched off. Broken armrests took precedence over broken hearts. By the time the plane was airborne I'd forgotten England even existed.

Adapted from *The Beach*, by Alex Garland.

Self-evaluation

Literary texts are difficult to read. Do not worry if you did not get all the answers.

Choose the correct answer.

This passage is from...

- a holiday brochure.
- an information leaflet.
- a novel.

The writer is travelling...

- alone.
- with his family.
- on a business trip.

The writer wants to...

- escape boredom.
- run away from a broken heart.
- learn languages.

The writer...

- had saved some money.
- borrowed money from his father.
- took his ex-girlfriend's money.

The writer...

- took a plane.
- Took a train.
- Went by bike.



Gap fill

Find expressions in the text that mean the following:

- ✓ Ending a relationship [redacted]
- ✓ Extremely bad [redacted]
- ✓ Became more important [redacted]
- ✓ Money [redacted]
- ✓ Used emotions to manipulate [redacted]
- ✓ Got on (a plane) [redacted]

Enviar

2.1. Now you put it into practice



Think about it

Why did the author go travelling?

Have you ever travelled for any of these reasons?

- ✓ To escape boredom.
- ✓ To live out your dreams.
- ✓ To run away from a broken heart.
- ✓ To take a break from your career.
- ✓ To broaden your experience of the world
- ✓ To visit historical sites or travel along a historical route.
- ✓ To learn languages.
- ✓ To get a suntan.
- ✓ To raise money for charity.



Can you think of any other reasons to go travelling?



A step ahead

You can watch the trailer for **The Beach** now.

[The Beach \(HD\) Trailer](#)

You can also read a review of **The Beach** and an interview with Alex Garland.

[Review of The Beach.](#)

3. If music be the food of love..



Quotes to make you think

"After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music."

Aldous Huxley.

The Divine Comedy are a pop band from Northern Ireland fronted by Neil Hannon. "National Express" was released as the third single from the album **Fin de Siècle** (1998) and reached number eight on the UK Singles Chart.

The song is based on Neil Hannon's observations of life from the window of a National Express bus.

Read the lyrics. What do you think is his opinion on the working classes? Can you picture the people described?





You should know

Read the lyrics:

[National Express Lyrics.](#)

You can listen to the song and watch its video here.

[Text summary](#)

Did your interpretation of the song change after watching the video?



A step ahead

You can visit The Divine Comedy's official web page.

[The Divine Comedy web](#)

Appendix: Licences of Resources

Licences of Resources used in Culture & pe

Recurso (1)	Datos del recurso (1)	Recurso (2)	
	<p>By: Fabio Venni. Licence: CC by-sa. From: http://www.flickr.com/photos/fabiovenni/62928630/</p>		<p>By: ellasportfo Licence: CC b From: http://www.flic</p>
	<p>By: Janusz Leszczynski. Licence: CC by. From: http://www.flickr.com/photos/januszbc/352535575/</p>		<p>By: UggBoy♥ Licence: CC b From: http://www.flic</p>
	<p>By: Tom Page. Licence: CC by-sa. From: http://www.flickr.com/photos/tompagenet/4673825021/</p>		