You can tell a lot about a person by the way they behave while dining out or by how they treat restaurant staff. You should use the same table manners in a restaurant as you do at home, but a few extra rules apply:

- Read the menu- if you’re not sure what something is, ask the waiter or a parent. Try not to order the most expensive item on the menu.
- If the waiter comes to take your order, but you’re not ready, just say “Could I have a few more minutes to decide, please?”
- If you need something from the waiter, just try to catch their eye, or give them a gentle wave. Never snap your fingers.
- Remember that food is served from the left and removed from the right.
- A lady should place her purse in her lap or between her back and the back of the chair- never on the table or on the floor.
- Don’t talk too loudly while in a restaurant.
- Don’t forget to leave a tip- even if you ate at a buffet style restaurant.
- If you are on a date or a job interview, you may not want to order food that is tricky or messy to eat (such as spaghetti, sushi, or tacos).

**Tipping Technique**

Legend has it, the word "tip" came years ago from a pub owner who used the acronym on a box "To Insure Promptness." In that spirit, tipping should be thought of first and foremost as a reward for prompt and attentive service.

- For waiters, you should plan to tip them 15-20% of the total bill. If the service was especially good, you could tip 25%.
- If possible, avoid asking for change when you are tipping.
- Some restaurants will automatically add a 15% tip to groups of 6 or more people.
Eating with Chop Sticks

Eating with chopsticks is fun, but can be tricky. Here are the basics you should know before visiting your favorite Asian restaurant:

1. Hold one chopstick between your thumb and middle finger. Position the chopstick so that is lies at the base of your thumb (on the joint) and at the lower joint of the middle finger. This chopstick shouldn't touch the index finger.
2. Place the other chopstick between your thumb and forefinger. The side of the chopstick should rest against the tip of your thumb: the top of the chopstick should rest against the pad of your index finger.
3. Be sure the tips of the chopsticks are parallel.
4. Keep the first chopstick stationary as you practice moving the second chopstick toward the stationary one.
5. Use this technique to position the chopsticks around a piece of food.
6. Hold the food firmly as you lift it toward your mouth.

Spearing your food with a chopstick is considered impolite. If you have trouble, try leaning the second chopstick against your middle finger for extra support.

Restaurant Reflections

- What types of restaurant manners apply even when you are eating fast food?
- How is dining out different from dining at home?
- Why is it important to use good manners in a restaurant?
- How do you think good restaurant manners will help you in the future?

Finish School

Use the Tip Math sheet to practice calculating your tip.