

Picking up the Tab at a Restaurant



PICKING UP THE TAB AT A RESTAURANT

Its time to pay the bill at Carmen's Bistro. Tanya and John discuss who will pay it. Then they talk about how much to tip.

Tanya: Let me *pick up the tab*.

John: No, *it's my treat*. The guy is supposed to pay on a date!

Tanya: Says who? I don't want you to pay for me every time we go out! Let's *go Dutch* this time.

John: No, I'll get it. *I insist*.

Tanya: Okay, but next time *it's on me*.

John: Let's see ... The total without tax is \$74.75.

Tanya: Do you think we should leave 15 percent* or more?

John: The service was *so-so*. Our waiter was *no great shakes*. He seemed *put out* when we complained about our food.

Tanya: What did he expect? The food *left a lot to be desired!* This is supposed to be such a great restaurant. I don't know what happened.

John: I guess it's *gone downhill*. I'll leave 15 percent. I could leave less, but I don't want to be a *cheapskate*!

Tanya: Yeah, we may want to come back here someday.

John: Come back here? *When hell freezes over!*

** It's standard to tip waiters and waitresses 15-20 percent in the U.S. They are unhappy when they get less than 15 percent.*

Language Lens: Supposed to

Use "supposed to be" when talking about something that is generally thought to be true.

Examples:

- Paris is **supposed to be** the most romantic city in the world.
- Your boyfriend took you to dinner at Masa? That's **supposed to be** the most expensive restaurant in the city!

Use supposed to + infinitive to:

==> Say what should or should not be done because of rules, common practices, or customs

Examples:

- Before ordering supplies, you're **supposed to** get your boss's approval.
- You're not **supposed to** smoke inside this restaurant.

==> Express sarcasm and/or anger, in place of should, can, or going to

Examples:

- Who was the nineteenth president of the United States? How am I **supposed to** know?(= I don't know! How would I know?)
- Your music is so loud, how am I **supposed to** get any work done? (= How can I get any work done with that loud music? I can't!)
- You invited your entire office over for dinner? Who's **supposed to** do all the cooking?(= I don't feel like cooking for all those people! Who's going to do all the cooking?)

==> Express something that was planned or intended, but did not happen (in this case, use "was/were supposed to")

Examples:

- Luke **was supposed to** start college in the fall, but then he decided to travel around the world instead.
- We're lost! We **were supposed to** take a right onto Danbury Road.
- We **were supposed to** go to a holiday concert last night, but it was snowing too hard.

Quick Quiz

Re-write the following with "supposed to":

Example: If you keep talking to me, how am I going to concentrate?

Answer: If you keep talking to me, how am I supposed to concentrate?

1. How can I do my homework when it's so noisy in the house?

2. Weren't you going to tell me when it was time to get off the highway?

3. Who's going to do all the cooking for the big party you're planning?

4. Who's going to clean up this mess?

5. We were planning to go to London last month, but the trip got canceled.