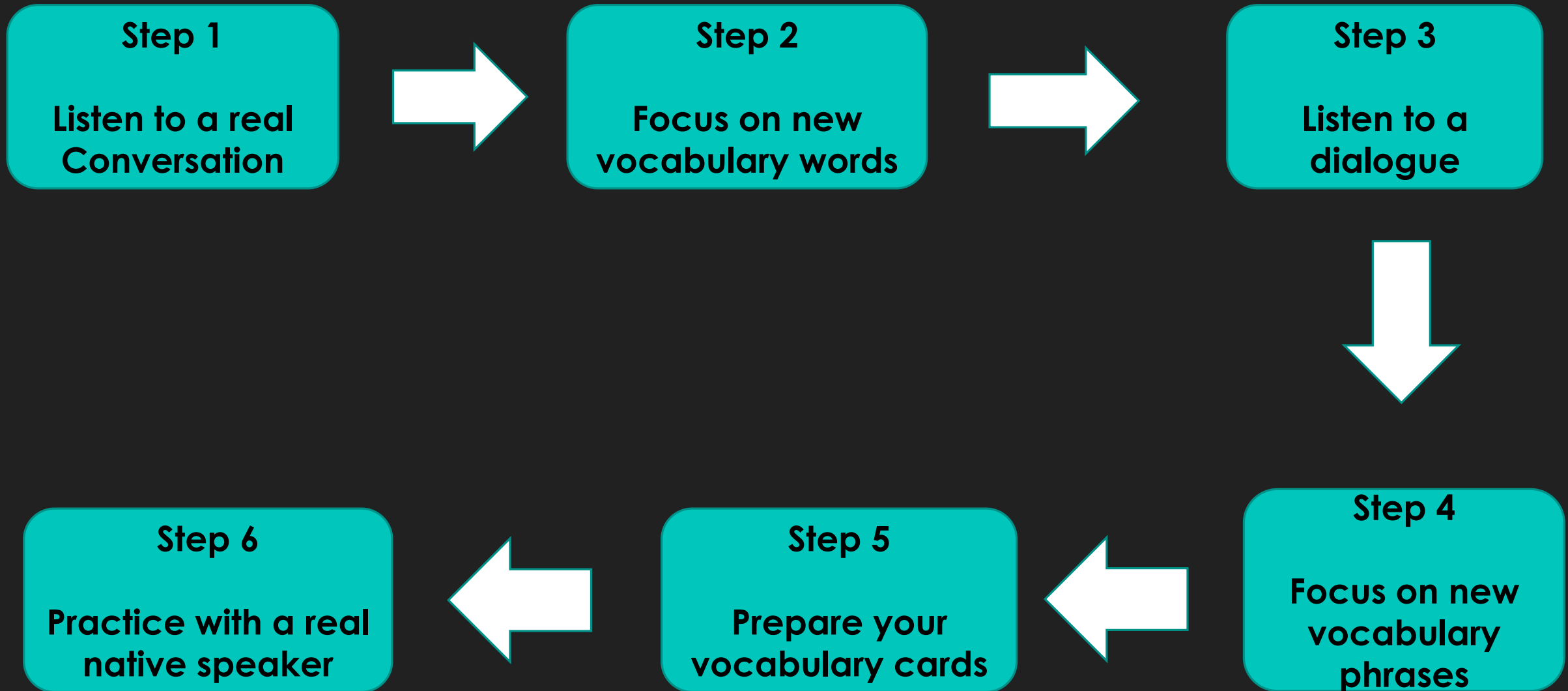


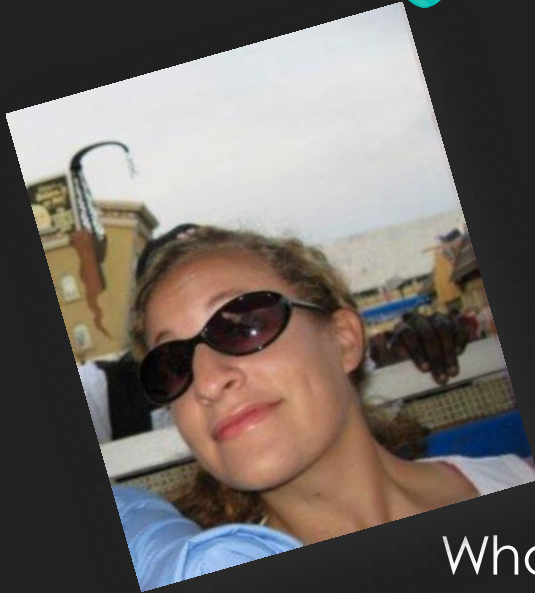
How to Leave a Tip in an American Restaurant

A Vocabulary Lesson

Our Method



Step 1: Listen to a Real Conversation



Please open
audio file “step 1-
How Much Do
Servers Make?”



What is it like to work as a server in the United States?
How much should you tip a server?

Learn the answers to these questions and more in this conversation with
Marlena and Lindsay.

Please open “Transcript Step 1 – How Much Do Servers Make?”

Step 2: Study the Vocabulary Words

**Minimum
wage**

Clean-cut

Off and on

Attentive

Re-fill

Tricky

**Rule of
thumb**

Minimum wage

noun



Meaning: The lowest possible hourly rate that an employer can legally pay an employee

“I can’t believe servers make less than the minimum wage.”

Clean-cut

adjective



Meaning: Appearing trim and neat, well-groomed

“It is important to look clean-cut if you want to make tips as a waiter.”

Off and on expression



Meaning: To do something intermittently, not regularly

“I have been waiting tables off and on since I was 16 years old.”

Attentive

adjective



Meaning: To pay attention, to offer high quality service

“The best servers are attentive with their customers.”

Re-fill

noun



Meaning: Replenishment of a drink, usually soda

“Does this restaurant offer free refills on soda?”

Tricky
adjective



Meaning: Something that is deceptively difficult, requires caution

“Carrying that tray full of wine glasses is going to be tricky.”

Rule of thumb

expression



Meaning: A general principle or rule, used in real life, not scientifically measured and not always accurate

“As a rule of thumb, you should wait 30 minutes after you eat to go swimming.”

Step 3: Listen for Main Idea

A new restaurant is opening in town. Listen to the dialogue between the two native speakers to get the main idea of the conversation.

Please open audio file

“step 3 and 4 –Did You Try that New Spanish Restaurant”



Step 4: Listen for Vocabulary Phrases

Please listen to the conversation and focus on the key vocabulary phrases while you listen.

Please open file “Transcript steps 3 and 4- Did You Try that New Spanish Restaurant?”

Key Vocabulary Phrases

- “It was tricky getting a reservation”
- “The servers were attentive and clean-cut”
- “...servers make less than minimum wage in this country”
- “I used to work as a server off and on”
- “It was a painful and very tricky job”

Bonus! Say It Another Way!

Please open the file called “Bonus – Say it Another Way!”



Step 5: Prepare your vocabulary cards

Refill



Tricky



Minimum wage



Clean cut



Off and on



Attentive



Rule of thumb



Step 6: Practice with a Native English Speaker!

- What are the tipping practices in your home country? Do servers get paid at least the **minimum wage**?
- If you tip servers in your home country, what are the factors that determine whether or not you leave a tip? How important is it for servers to be **attentive**? Are there any general **rules of thumb** to decide how much to give?

Bonus! Dialogue 1: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way:

A: (Student): Do servers get paid well in your home country?

B: No they only get _____ (the minimum wage) and sometimes even less than that.

A: Wow, even if they are really _____ (attentive)?

B: Yeah, that's why, as a general _____ (rule of thumb), I always leave 15-20% tip.

Bonus Dialogue 1 Answers

Bonus! Dialogue 1: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way:

A: *(Student): Do servers get paid well in your home country?*

B: No they only get the lowest legal wage possible and sometimes even less than that.

A: *Wow, even if they offer great service?*

B: Yeah, that's why, as a general principle, I always leave 15-20% tip.

More questions...

- Have you ever worked as a waiter or waitress? Was it **tricky**? Please describe the experience.
- Is it common for restaurants in your country to offer free **re-fills** on soda?
- Is there a particular kind of international food that you like to eat **off and on**? Why do you like that kind of food? How often do you eat it?
- Describe the best restaurant meal you have ever had. Why was it so great? Was the server attentive and **clean-cut**? How did the meal taste? What did you order?
- What is your favorite restaurant in your hometown? Why is it your favorite?

More questions...

- If you are currently in the US, have you ever made a mistake with tipping or restaurant etiquette? (Don't worry, many people have) What should you have done? What would you do differently next time?
- On a Friday evening, do you usually prefer to eat out at a restaurant, order take-out and stay home, or cook a meal at home?
- What are the current restaurant or food trends in your country? Is vegetarianism or veganism becoming popular? Why? What do you think of this kind of diet?
- How have fast food restaurants like McDonalds influenced your society in terms of health, economics, well-being of the people?

More questions...

- Have you ever had really terrible or really great service from a waiter/server? What exactly happened? Please tell the story
- Do you think the tipping practices in your country are fair? Why or why not? Compare them to the US.
- Is it common to make a reservation at a popular restaurant on the weekends in your home country or can you just show up and get a table?

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