Hair

Hair Salons and Tipping

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I have worked in a hair salon since I was 19 years old. I work every day after school. I enjoy working in the salon because it is fun. I often dye my hair different colors. My experience is exciting, but it is stressful too. Sometimes, even when you give great service to a client, they don’t tip. Some people are very cheap. They want great service, but they don’t want to tip. I curse at them behind their backs!

Some clients are very nice, though. They pay a $20 tip, and they also double the tip at Christmas-time. Some clients know when it is my birthday and they give me more. Some clients bring gifts to me. These are the clients I like to work with. The cheap clients, I want to tell them: Get out of here!

Strategies for Calculating the Tip

How much of a tip do you usually give to the people who wash and style your hair? Do you think about it in terms of percent? Or some other formula? (A formula is simply a set of math symbols that expresses a rule or a principle.)

Let’s say you want to leave a 20% tip. For the purposes of our formula, we’ll call the tip “T” and the cost of the haircut will be “H.” Our formula would look like this:

\[ T = 0.2 \times H \]

Solve the formula when H = $40. Try it again for haircuts of different prices. Change the percent to 15% and solve the formula again.

Can you solve the formula in your head? If so, what strategy did you use? Try solving it using a calculator and using pencil and paper.