**Picking Up The Tab At A Restaurant**

**It's 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. **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!** |

**Idioms & Expressions**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Cheapskate** | Someone who doesn't like to spend money; a cheap person.Dana is such a **cheapskate**. She brings her own tea bags to restaurants and asks for a cup of hot water. |
| **Go downhill** | To become worse over time; to deteriorate. The service at the Seaside Bar & Grill has really **gone downhill.** We waited 45 minutes for our food to arrive! |
| **Go Dutch** | To split the bill.Amanda didn't want her boyfriend to pay the entire restaurant bill, so she suggested they **go Dutch**. |
| **I insist** | I will pay (say this when you don't want to argue anymore over who will pay the bill ــــــ it's usually the last word)"Dinner is my treat." ــــــ "No, you paid last time. I'm paying tonight. **I insist**." |
| **It's my treat** | I'll pay the bill."Let me pay for dinner tonight." ـــــ "No, I invited you to dinner, so **it's my treat**. |
| **It's on me** | I'll pay.Put your wallet away. **It's on me**. |
| **Leave a lot to be desired** | To be bad or lacking in some way.Josh chews with his mouth open and rests his elbows on the table. His table manners **leave a lot to be desired**. |
| **No great shakes** | Not so good; fair; unimpressive.The person we just interviewed for the job was **no great shakes**. I think we can find somebody better. |
| **Pick up the tab** | To pay the bill.Everybody left the bar before the bill came, so I was stuck **picking up the tab** for our entire group! |
| **Put out** | Annoyed; inconvenienced. Joel seemed really **put out** when I asked him if he could drive me to the airport. |
| **So-so** | Average; not very good.Paul and Nora weren't thrilled with their tour of Portugal. It was just **so-so**. |
| **When hell freezes over** | Never.Will the boss invite us all over to his house for dinner? **When hell freezes over**.  |