

## Avant de lire *Un Américain à Paris*

### Reading Strategy

**CATEGORIZE DETAILS** Sometimes small cultural misunderstandings can get in the way of our enjoyment of life in a foreign country. Skim the reading and then mark in the chart below which features of daily life give Harry Hapless difficulty.

	Oui	Non
les heures d'ouverture de la banque		
les fêtes nationales		
la nourriture		
l'heure officielle		
les pourboires		

### What You Need To Know

In many ways, daily life in France and daily life in the United States are similar. But there are some important differences that might confuse a tourist who is unfamiliar with French customs. One obvious difference between France and the United States regards our two systems of measurement. France, like most countries besides the United States, uses the metric system.

Tipping is handled differently in each country. In France, the tip is usually included in the price of a service or meal (when it is included in your restaurant bill, you will generally see a note that says **service compris**).

France and the United States share many of the same holidays, but France also celebrates many Catholic feast days as **jours fériés**—official holidays when schools and businesses are closed.