

British Coins

- **1p and 2p** (copper)
- **5p, 10p, 20p and 50p** (silver)
- **£ 1** (gold)
- **£ 2** (gold and silver)

All our coins bear HM The Queen's head on one side. Portraits of kings and queens have been engraved on our coins for hundreds of years.

On the edge of our coins, the letters D.G.REG.F.D. always appear after the Queen's name. The letters stand for the Latin words *Dei Gratia Regina Fidei Defensor*, which means 'By the Grace of God, Queen, Defender of the Faith'. text taken from and copyright of projcetbritain.com

New coins in circulation 2009



1p

A penny
It pictures the portcullis of Westminster Palace.

1 penny is often pronounced "one pee".

Issue Date
15 February 1971



2p

A two-pence piece can be referred to as tuppence or a tupenny.
It pictures the Prince of Wales feathers.

2 pence is often pronounced "two pee"

Issue Date
15 February 1971

5p



This coin shows the symbol of Scotland, the thistle.

On top of the thistle you can see the British crown.

5 pence is often pronounced "five pee"

Issue Date

Current and smaller version - June 1990

(Larger version introduced 1968, demonetised 1990)

10p



The 10 pence coin (about the size of a US Quarter) shows a lion.

For centuries the lion was a proud symbol of Britain's strength.

The lion is wearing the crown of the British Monarch.

10 pence is often pronounced "ten pee"

Issue date

Current and smaller version - September 1992

(Larger version introduced in 1968, demonetised in 1993)

20p



The 20 pence coin shows the Tudor Rose.

A rose is the national flower of England.

On top you can see the British crown.

20 pence is often pronounced "twenty

pee"

Issue date

9 June 1982



50p

The 50 pence coin shows the picture of Britannia and a lion.

Both are symbols of Britain.

50 pence is often pronounced "fifty pee"

Issue date

Current and smaller version introduced September 1997

(Larger version introduced October 1969, demonetised in 1998)

£1 (1 pound)



There are many different pictures on the £1 coin to reflect the different countries of Britain: lions for England, a thistle for Scotland and a leek for Wales. The coin on the left shows the three lions of England.

The slang term for pound is quid.

Issue date

21 April 1983

£2 (2 pounds)



The design of the 2 pound coin represents technological development. The edge lettering features the quote "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants" by Sir Isaac Newton,

First Issued Date

15 June 1998

Banknotes

Sterling banknotes are the banknotes of the United Kingdom and British Islands, denominated in pounds sterling (GBP).

- **£5** (five pounds)
- **£10** (10 pounds)
- **£20** (twenty pounds)
- **£50** (fifty pounds)

each denomination has its own size and colour



All our bank notes bear HM The Queen's head on one side and a famous historical person on the other side.

Queen Elizabeth II is the first monarch to have her portrait printed on a bank note. It was first done in 1960 as a way of helping to prevent forgeries.

£5 (5 pounds)



The current £5 note features Elizabeth Fry, who made her name fighting for improved living conditions for women in European jails.

(Old £5 note features George Stephenson. Ceased to be legal tender on 21 November 2003)

Actual note size: 135mm x 70mm (approx.)

£10 (10 pounds)



The current £10 note features Charles Darwin, the Victorian naturalist who developed the theory of evolution. Also pictured is an illustration of Darwin's own magnifying lens and the flora and fauna that he may have come across on his travels.

Actual note size: 142mm x 75mm (approx.)



£20 (20 pounds)

The current £20 note features Sir Edward Elgar, a British composer whose orchestral works include *Enigma Variations* (1896) and five *Pomp and Circumstance* marches (1901–1930).

Actual note size: 149mm x 80mm (approx.)

The Bank of England issued a new-style £20 note on 13 March 2007. The note features Adam Smith, one of the fathers of modern economics, on the back and incorporates enhanced security features.

The new-style £20 notes will circulate alongside the old-style Elgar note which will be progressively withdrawn from circulation. The date when its legal tender status ends will then be announced, as is usual practice.

£50 (50 pounds)

The current £50 note features Sir John Houblon, the first Governor of the Bank of England.

Actual note size: 156mm x 85mm (approx.)

Quid

The slang term for a British Pound is **Quid**. One pound sterling is referred to as "A QUID", five pound sterling as

"Five Quid" and ten pound sterling as "Ten Quid".
Other names for a pound coin include a smacker, or
smackeroon.

The two Banknotes with other names are the "Fiver" (£5)
or the "Tenner" (£10) .

For example "It only cost me a tenner"