

## Introduction

This support pack accompanies: UK Culture – Currency

To watch the video online, go to:

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/uk-culture/currency>

This support pack contains the following materials:

- a pre-watching vocabulary activity;
- discussion questions
- the tape script
- a comprehension task
- a language task



Although the UK is in the European Union it has taken the decision at the moment not to adopt the Euro as its currency. Instead it retains pound sterling.

## Before you watch / read

Match the words and phrases in the table to their definitions.

1. adopt	2. retains	3. in regular circulation	4. issued	5. bearing
6. legal tender	7. traders	8. familiar	9. reluctant	10. though

## Definitions:

- a. people who buy and sell things
- b. money normally passing from one person to another
- c. accept or start to use something new
- d. knowing something well
- e. however
- f. money which can be officially used in a country
- g. keeps, continues to have
- h. having
- i. officially provided
- j. not willing and slow to do something

## Discuss:

- Is currency important for a country's identity?
- How would you feel if your currency changed?

## Transcript: UK Culture – Currency

### Currency

Although the UK is in the European Union, it has taken the decision at the moment not to adopt the Euro as its currency. Instead it retains pound sterling.

A pound consists of 100 pence. The word 'pence' being very often shortened to the letter 'p' in both the written and in conversational form.

The following coins are in regular circulation

**1p 2p 5p 10p 20p and 50p**

**£1 and £2** coins

(£ = the symbol for pounds)

The following notes are also used:

**£5 £10 £20 and £50**

These notes are usually issued in the name of the Bank of England and the notes and coins are accepted throughout the UK. You may occasionally find some bank notes bearing the names of Banks in Scotland or Northern Ireland, like the Scottish notes shown here. These are still legal tender throughout the UK but some traders, because they are not familiar with them, may be reluctant to accept them outside of the country in which they were issued. If you do have any difficulties though, any Bank will replace them without charge.

## Comprehension Task

### Multiple Choice

Choose the correct answers.

1. The United Kingdom is part of the European Union...
  - a. and uses the Euro as its currency.
  - b. and doesn't use the pound as its currency.
  - c. but doesn't use the Euro as its currency.
2. The term 'p' ...
  - a. stands for pounds.
  - b. stands for pence.
  - c. is only used in the spoken language.
3. Which of the following does the Bank of England not produce?
  - a. £1 note
  - b. £2 coin
  - c. £20 note
4. Which money is accepted currency anywhere in the UK?
  - a. Notes from the Bank of Ireland
  - b. Notes from the Bank of Wales
  - c. Notes from the Bank of Scotland
5. Some shops may not accept notes from the Bank of Northern Ireland because...
  - a. they have never seen them before.
  - b. they can only be used in Northern Ireland.
  - c. they can only be changed at a bank.

## Language Task

### Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps in the sentences below using the words from the box.

issue	coins	currency	pence	trader	reluctant
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1. The franc was the \_\_\_\_\_ in France before they adopted the Euro
2. Have you got a couple of \_\_\_\_\_ for the cigarette machine?
3. They were \_\_\_\_\_ to give her the job when they found out she had so little experience.
4. He worked for a while as a market \_\_\_\_\_ in Manchester.
5. The police will \_\_\_\_\_ a description of the man they want question about the robbery.
6. There are one hundred \_\_\_\_\_ in a British pound.

## Answers

Language Task: 1 - currency, 2 - coins, 3 - reluctant, 4 - trader, 5 - issue, 6 - pence

Comprehension Task: 1 - c, 2 - b, 3 - a, 4 - c, 5 - a

Before you watch / read: 1 - c, 2 - g, 3 - b, 4 - i, 5 - h, 6 - f, 7 - a, 8 - d, 9 - j, 10 - e