

## As Cheap as Chips!

'Cash', 'bread', 'dosh', 'wedge', 'readies'- all these are words the British use for a subject they claim they would rather not talk about – money. Traditionally, we British have exercised a money talk taboo and yet have still managed to come up with any number of colourful, but for visitors, potentially confusing terms for this most vital of commodities. Let's have a quick look then at some of most common of these and compare some of the attitudes to money from around the UK.

The pound is the oldest currency in the world still in use and over the centuries it has acquired a host of names, some affectionate, some truly bizarre. For a start, the British very often refer to a pound as a quid. This probably comes from the Latin phrase quid pro quo or this for that. Throughout the UK a 5-pound note is a fiver and a 10-pound note a tenner. These er suffixes are possibly used endearingly – like the Japanese adding – chan to a child's name. Weirder still, in the world of horseracing 25 pounds is 'a pony' and 500 pounds 'a monkey'. 100 pounds is sometimes referred to as 'a ton', especially in London, and 1,000 pounds can be referred to as a 'grand' or 'k' though these terms are considered a little flashy. At the other end of the scale, in Scotland 5 pence is called a bob, for no apparent reason.

Attitudes to money differ throughout the UK too. The Scots are considered the nation's least generous residents and are often the butt of jokes about their stinginess (kechi – ness). For example a humorous guide book to Scotland claimed that Scots use a teabag 18 times before throwing it away. This is grossly unfair – I am a proud Scotsman myself and have never used the same teabag more than a dozen times. Londoners are renowned for their ability to make money and sharpness in a deal while people from Liverpool and Manchester often have to endure taunts about their lack of money – 'Have you seen a ten pound note before?' is commonly chanted by supporters at football grounds in London whenever teams from the north west pay them a visit.

Wherever you are in the UK though you will likely encounter some of our many money related expressions too. If you have a lot of money you are 'well-off'(polite) or 'loaded' or 'minted' (less so). If you have little or no money you are 'skint' or 'hard up' and if you are going around your friends in search of a loan you are 'on the scrounge'. Something expensive 'costs an arm and a leg' while a real bargain (and a very popular phrase at the moment) is 'as cheap as chips'.

Useful link: Things to do in London for under a `tenner`:

[www.timeout.com/london/features/4994/Things\\_to\\_do\\_in\\_London\\_for\\_under\\_a\\_tenner.html#articleAfterMpu](http://www.timeout.com/london/features/4994/Things_to_do_in_London_for_under_a_tenner.html#articleAfterMpu)