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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 15/09/16

## New British notes and coins

Britain has a new £5 note. The Bank of England released the new polymer plastic £5 bank note into general circulation in England and Wales\*\* on Tuesday. It marks the start of several big changes the Bank of England is making. The new fiver will see the Queen on one side, and Winston Churchill on the other. It will be 15% smaller than the current cotton-paper note.

For now, it's only fivers that are changing. Plastic £10 and £20 bank notes will follow later. The new tenner will feature Jane Austin. It will enter circulation next summer. The new £20 note will arrive in 2020. The Bank has yet to decide on £50 notes. Be aware that existing £5 notes cease to be legal tender from May 2017!

A new £1 coin is also being introduced. It will be 12-sided and will be introduced in March 2017. Anyone around in the 1960s will remember the old threepenny bit – pronounced 'thruppence' or 'thrupenny bit'. The new £1 coin is remarkably like it. The Bank of England advise the new £1 coin is highly secure, adding existing £1 coins are easy to fake. As many as 3% of current £1 coins in circulation are counterfeit.

The new £1 coin will be harder to fake. It will weigh slightly less than current ones. It will be slightly thinner but will have a slightly larger diameter. It will have an outer nickel-bass, a nickel-plated alloy inner and will have milled edges. The Royal Mint has said both £1 coins will continue to be legal tender in tandem until September 2017. Everyone will need to exchange or spend their £1 coins that they have in their piggy banks, ahead of this, if they wish to use them for anything. Quite how the introduction of the new £1 coin will affect all the vending and parking machines remains to be seen. Many will need to be upgraded.

## SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about British bank notes and coins. Go round the room swapping details with others.

## LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

## READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

## SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

**1) The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

**2) The article** - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

**3) Article quiz** - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

### Student A questions

- 1) When will the new £1 coin come into circulation in Britain?
- 2) When did the new £5 bank note come into circulation in Britain?
- 3) Describe the new £1 coin.
- 4) Describe the new £5 note.
- 5) Name the bank.

### Student B questions

- 1) When does the current £5 bank note cease to be legal tender?
- 2) When does the current £1 coin cease to become legal tender?
- 3) Name the type of machines.
- 4) How many £1 coins in circulation are fake?
- 5) What is a thruppenny bit?

\*\*Scottish fivers will begin to change in late September and October.

**Category: UK / Currency / Coins and Notes**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

## New British notes and coins – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words about **'notes and coins'**. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* – Think of three notes you use. Write them below. Who or what is on each side of them? Discuss!

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Add three coins you use. Who or what is on each side of them? Discuss!

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Add three types of vending machines you use coins for. Are they complicated to use? Explain and discuss!

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Do you use plastic notes in your country?
- 3) Will you be using the new British £5 note and £1 coin?
- 4) What coins do you use in your country? Why?
- 5) What notes do you use in your country? Why?
- 6) Are these notes and coins you use easy to use?
- 7) Do you use contactless cards? Why? Explain.
- 8) Do you use credit or debit cards? If yes, for what?
- 9) Do you prefer paperless money?
- 10) Have you learnt anything today?

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *New British notes and coins.*

- 1) A representative from the Bank of England.
- 2) A shopper.
- 3) An ex-forgery.
- 4) A vending machine boss.

**The teacher** will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

### SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

*In pairs* - Student A is a cash man/person. Student B prefers contactless cards. *3 mins.*

### SPEAKING - PRESENTATION

*Allow 10-15 minutes* – As a class.

*Prepare a 3 minute presentation on*

**The notes and coins in my country/another country**

*(Google it if necessary!)*

**The teacher** can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Had you heard of the thrippenny bit before?
- 3) Do you use a £50 often? Explain.
- 4) How often do you use vending machines?
- 5) How often do you use a cash machine/ATM machine?
- 6) What do you do with your spare coins?
- 7) When you were young did you have a piggy bank?
- 8) Why isn't the same currency used around the whole world? Explain.
- 9) Is it a good idea to have one currency to use in many countries? Explain.
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

**GAP FILL: READING**

**New British notes and coins**

Britain has a new £5 (1)\_\_. The Bank of England released the new polymer plastic £5 bank note into general circulation in England and Wales on Tuesday. It marks the start of several big changes the Bank of England is making. The new (2)\_\_ will see the Queen on one side, and Winston Churchill on the other. It will be 15% (3)\_\_ than the current cotton-paper note. For now, it's only fivers that are changing. Plastic £10 and £20 bank notes will follow later. The new (4)\_\_ will feature Jane Austin. It will enter (5)\_\_ next summer. The new £20 note will arrive in 2020. The Bank has yet to decide on £50 notes. Be aware that existing £5 notes cease to be legal tender from May 2017!

A new £1 (6)\_\_ is also being introduced. It will be 12-sided and will be introduced in March 2017. (7)\_\_ around in the 1960s will remember the old threepenny bit – pronounced '(8)\_\_\_' or 'thruppenny bit'.

***circulation / fiver / thruppence / coin / tenner / note / smaller / anyone***

The new £1 coin is remarkably like it. The Bank of England advise the new £1 coin is highly (1)\_\_, adding existing £1 coins are easy to fake. As many as 3% of current £1 coins in circulation are (2)\_\_. The new £1 coin will be harder to (3)\_\_. It will weigh slightly less than current ones. It will be slightly thinner but will have a slightly larger (4)\_\_. It will have an outer nickel-bass, a nickel-plated alloy inner and will have milled (5)\_\_.

The Royal Mint has said both £1 coins will continue to be legal tender in tandem until September 2017. Everyone will need to (6)\_\_ or spend their £1 coins that they have in their (7)\_\_, ahead of this, if they wish to use them for anything. Quite how the introduction of the new £1 coin will affect all the vending and parking machines remains to be seen. Many will need to be (8)\_\_.

***upgraded / diameter / exchange / fake / piggy banks / counterfeit / secure / edges***

**GAP FILL: GRAMMAR**

**New British notes and coins**

Britain has a new £5 note. The Bank (1)\_\_ England released the new polymer plastic £5 bank note into general circulation in England and Wales (2)\_\_ Tuesday. (3)\_\_ marks the start of several big changes the Bank of England is making. The new fiver will see the Queen on one side, and Winston Churchill on the other. It will be 15% smaller than the current cotton-paper note. (4)\_\_ now, it's only fivers that are changing. Plastic £10 and £20 bank notes will follow later. The new tenner will feature Jane Austin. It will enter circulation next summer. The new £20 note will arrive (5)\_\_ 2020. The Bank has (6)\_\_ to decide on £50 notes. Be aware that existing £5 notes cease to be legal tender from May 2017!

(7)\_\_ new £1 coin is also being introduced. It will be 12-sided and will be introduced in March 2017. Anyone around in the 1960s will remember the old threepenny bit – pronounced 'thruppence' (8)\_\_ 'thruppenny bit'.

***in / or / on / it / a / of / yet / for***

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The Royal Mint has said both £1 coins will continue to be legal tender in tandem until September 2017. Everyone will need to exchange or spend their £1 coins (3)\_\_ (4)\_\_ have in (5)\_\_ piggy banks, ahead of this, if they wish to use them for anything. (6)\_\_ (7)\_\_ the introduction of the new £1 coin will affect all the vending and parking machines remains to be seen. (8)\_\_ will need to be upgraded.

***many / their / how / than / they / quite / but / that***

## New British notes and coins – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016



### GAP FILL: LISTENING

### WRITING/SPELLING

#### New British notes and coins

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#### WRITING / SPEAKING

**1) On the board** - *In pairs/As a class*, list 20 things you know about: **British bank notes and coins**. *One-two minutes. Talk about each of them.*

**2) On the board** - *In pairs/As a class*, list 10 different ways to send money to a friend. *Discuss together.*

**3) Sentence starters** - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) The new £1 coin \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) The new fiver \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Paperless money \_\_\_\_\_

**4) Write down 50 words about: **New British notes and coins**.** Your words can be read out in class.

**5) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **New British notes and coins**. Your email can be read out in class.

#### SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) decide
- 2) fake
- 3) legal tender
- 4) piggy banks
- 5) anything
- 6) introduction
- 7) slightly
- 8) pronounced
- 9) thruppenny bit
- 10) yet

#### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**  
**Good = 15**  
**Very good = 18**  
**Excellent = 20**

- 11) coin
- 12) polymer
- 13) current
- 14) fivers
- 15) tenner
- 16) smaller
- 17) remarkably
- 18) advice
- 19) fake
- 20) thinner

New British notes and coins – *15<sup>th</sup> September 2016*