



Currency Issues

Ireland uses the Euro and the UK uses the Pound. As you remember from Unit 1, Lesson 4, the United Kingdom is a separate country from Ireland. The United Kingdom is made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The UK uses the Pound Sterling while Ireland uses the Euro. A lot of European countries have changed their currency to the Euro, but the UK has not yet joined. Some big shops will accept the Euro as an alternative currency and their goods are priced in both Pounds and Euros. But normally they are priced in Pounds and they will use the symbol for the Pound, or the initials GBP which stand for Great British Pound.

The Pound is divided into 100 pence. The singular of pence is "penny". The symbol for the penny is "p"; an amount such as 50 pence is often pronounced "fifty pee". All our coins bear The Queen's head on one side. All our bank notes bear The Queen's head on one side and a famous historical person on the other side.

The slang term for a British Pound is quid. One Pound Sterling is referred to as "a quid". The 5-Pound banknote is a fiver and the 10-Pound banknote is a tenner.

While Northern Ireland uses Pounds Sterling, the Republic of Ireland is part of the Eurozone and uses the Euro, like you do in Spain. As you know, 1 Euro is 100 cents.