

personal english



Semantic Field #20

U.S. Currency



1¢ Penny 5¢ Nickel 10¢ Dime 25¢ Quarter



The United States dollar (\$) is divided into 100 smaller cent (¢) units. The dollar goes by many nicknames, the most common of which is the ubiquitous **buck**. Other well-known nicknames are **greenmail**, **green** and **dead presidents** – the last because late presidents are portrayed on most bills.

Here are the most popular nicknames for US **banknotes** (a.k.a. **bills**):

\$1= single, buck, bone

\$2= Jefferson, Tom, deuce

\$5= Lincoln, fin, fiver, five-spot

\$10= Hamilton, sawbuck, ten-spot

\$20= Jackson, double sawbuck, double eagle

\$50= Grant, yardstick

\$100= Benjamin, Benji, Ben, Franklin, C-note, Century note, bill

\$ 1'000= Grand, K (extremely rare bill)

As for coins, the most common are: the **penny**, worth 1¢; the **nickel**, 5¢; the **dime**, 10¢, and the **quarter**, 25¢. The word 'penny' has two plural forms: **pennies** for individual coins, and **pence** as a collective noun. The nickel is named after the metal it has been made of since 1857, when it was first used for replacing copper, whereas the name *dime* has derived from French '**dîme**', meaning **tenth**.