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Download Article An easy tutorial for quickly counting dollar bills and coins by hand Download Article Recently filled up your piggy bank or money jar and trying to see exactly how much cash you have? You’ve come to the right place! In this article, we’ll offer you a comprehensive guide to adding your bills and coins in the quickest, most organized way possible. We’ll also provide some tips for increasing your speed so you can count your bills with top-dollar efficiency (pun intended). Keep reading to roll through your rolls faster than ever. Before you start counting, separate your bills and coins by denomination (1s, 5s, 10s, pennies, quarters, dimes, etc). Stack your cash or coins in equal-sized piles. You can secure these stacks with a rubber band to keep them organized. Once you’ve stacked all your money into piles of a specific amount, use a calculator to tally up all your money, starting with the largest denominations. 1 Sort your bills by denomination, then create equal-sized stacks of bills. Before you begin counting, create equal-sized stacks of all of your 1s, all of your 5s, all of your 10s, and so on. First, gather all of your bills into one big stack. Then, go through it one bill at a time and put each banknote in its own pile with its respective denomination. (For example, you’ll have a pile of 20s, a separate pile of 50s, and so forth.)[1] Once your cash is sorted, separate each denomination into equal-sized stacks. For example, you might create stacks of ten 1s, ten 5s, ten 10s, etc. Choose a simple, rounded number that’s easy to multiply and appropriate for the amount of cash you have. (You could make stacks of 10 bills, 20 bills, 50 bills, etc.) 2 Adjust the bills so that they’re all facing the same direction. After you separate your bills into different stacks, flip your bills so they’re all facing portrait or vignette-side up. (In the U.S, portrait refers to the side with a leader’s face on it, while vignette refers to the side with the Great Seal.)[2] This will make counting money faster and easier, and keep your stacks more organized.[3] Advertisement 3 Count each bill as you pass it from one hand to the other. Pick up one stack and hold it in your non-dominant hand. Grab the top bill with your dominant thumb and pointer finger to make sure it’s only a single bill and not 2 bills stacked together. Then, use your dominant hand to grab each bill from the pile one at a time and count the denomination out loud. Continue to grab and move the bills until you’ve shifted the entire stack from one hand to the other.[4] For example, if you’re counting a stack of 5 dollar bills, say “5, 10, 15, 20,” as you grab and place the first 4 bills onto the flat surface. 4 Wrap a rubber band around a stack once you reach 50 bills. To avoid creating uneven stacks (which will make it tough to calculate later on) and piles of cash that might tip over, bundle your money in stacks. Wrap each stack up with a rubber band. It can help to memorize the value of each stack beforehand. For example, if you’re making stacks of 50 bills each:[5] A stack of $5 bills = $250. A stack of $10 bills = $500. A stack of $20 bills = $1,000, etc. 5 Add up all your banded stacks and leftover bills. Continue banding each stack of 50 bills and setting them aside. Once you’re out of bills, use a calculator to add the total of each stack together, and add on any leftover bills afterward.[6] Start with higher denominations first (100s, 50s, 20s). Then, work your way down to the smaller values like 1s.[7] . For example, if you have 3 fifty-bill stacks of 20s, 2 stacks of 10s, 5 stacks of 5s, and 23 loose 1 dollar bills, your math would look like this: 1,000 + 1,000 + 1,000 + 500 + 500 + 250 + 250 + 250 + 250 + 250 + 23 = 5,273. 6 Re-count your stack to ensure your total is accurate. Always double-check your total when you’re counting cash.[8] Once you’ve finished counting your stacks the first time, write down your total. Then, re-calculate. If your number matches, then your total is right. If you calculate a new number, re-count to double-check that new total. For example, if you counted $5,273 the first time, but, after counting again got $5,272, write down $5,272 and count again. You can also use a bill-counting machine or money-counting app to help you double-check your work. Advertisement 1 Separate your coins by denomination. Divide your pile of change into multiple stacks that represent every denomination of coin you have. For instance, you may have a pile of quarters, a pile of dimes, a pile of nickels, and a pile of pennies once you’re done sorting.[9] 2 Organize each type of coin into stacks of a certain dollar amount. Count a stack of specific coins (pennies, dimes, corners) into a pile. Once the value of your coins reaches a dollar amount that’s easy to add, set that pile aside. It’s okay if the dollar amount varies for each denomination, but make sure the number of coins in each pile is consistent.[10] For example, each stack of quarters may be worth $2 (8 coins) while each stack of pennies may only be worth $0.10 (10 coins). 3 Make identical stacks out of the remaining coins. 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Once you’ve written a total for each denomination pile, add the totals of each pile together. For example, if your quarter pile is worth $18.75, your dime pile is worth $11.60, your nickel pile is worth $3.15, and your penny pile is worth $1.33, then your math would be: $18.75 + $11.60 + $3.15 + $1.33 = $34.83. Write down your total on a sheet of paper when you’re finished.[13] 6 Re-count your coins to double-check your math. Once you’ve determined the total value of all your coins combined, re-count your stacks to ensure that your math is accurate. If you calculate the same total on your second try as you did on your first try, you can put your coins back (but keep the total number you wrote down somewhere safe). Counting money by hand isn’t as effective as using counting by machine. While it’s more expensive, consider getting a coin counter to help you calculate your cash. Most banks also have a coin counter that you can use if you’re a member, free of charge.[14] Advertisement 1 Use each of your fingers to count bills in groups of 5. Hold a stack of bills (that are all the same denomination) in your non-dominant hand. Fold these bills in half vertically so that all 4 corners are facing up. Then, using one finger at a time on your dominant hand, slide and unfold the bills from the pile. Count how many times you swipe through all your fingers (every count will contain 5 bills).[15] For example, pull down the 1st bill in the folded stack with your thumb, the 2nd with your pointer finger, the 3rd bill with your middle finger, the 4th with your ring finger, and the 5th with your pinky. Repeat until you’ve pulled down and counted the whole stack. Multiply the number of counts you made by 5 to get the total number of bills. 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Ask a Question Advertisement Reviewed by: Financial Literacy Expert This article was reviewed by Andrew Lokenauth and by wikiHow staff writer, Finn Kobler. Andrew Lokenauth is a Finance Expert who has over 15 years of experience working on Wall St. and in Tech & Start-ups. Andrew helps management teams translate their financials into actionable business decisions. He has held positions at Goldman Sachs, Citi, and JPMorgan Asset Management. He is the founder of Fluent in Finance, a firm that provides resources to help others learn to build wealth, understand the importance of investing, create a healthy budget, strategize debt pay-off, develop a retirement roadmap, and create a personalized investing plan. His insights have been quoted in Forbes, TIME, Business Insider, Nasdaq, Yahoo Finance, BankRate, and U.S. News. Andrew has a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree (BBA), Accounting and Finance from Pace University. This article has been viewed 159,091 times. Co-authors: 3 Updated: July 6, 2023 Views: 159,091 Categories: Handling and Storing Money Print Send fan mail to authors Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 159,091 times. "This app is an interesting, according how l have passing through it it's very clear and l would like to learn more about the app."..." more Share your story Download Article An easy tutorial for quickly counting dollar bills and coins by hand Download Article Recently filled up your piggy bank or money jar and trying to see exactly how much cash you have? You’ve come to the right place! In this article, we’ll offer you a comprehensive guide to adding your bills and coins in the quickest, most organized way possible. We’ll also provide some tips for increasing your speed so you can count your bills with top-dollar efficiency (pun intended). Keep reading to roll through your rolls faster than ever. 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Ask a Question Advertisement Reviewed by: Financial Literacy Expert This article was reviewed by Andrew Lokenauth and by wikiHow staff writer, Finn Kobler. Andrew Lokenauth is a Finance Expert who has over 15 years of experience working on Wall St. and in Tech & Start-ups. Andrew helps management teams translate their financials into actionable business decisions. He has held positions at Goldman Sachs, Citi, and JPMorgan Asset Management. He is the founder of Fluent in Finance, a firm that provides resources to help others learn to build wealth, understand the importance of investing, create a healthy budget, strategize debt pay-off, develop a retirement roadmap, and create a personalized investing plan. His insights have been quoted in Forbes, TIME, Business Insider, Nasdaq, Yahoo Finance, BankRate, and U.S. News. Andrew has a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree (BBA), Accounting and Finance from Pace University. This article has been viewed 159,091 times. Co-authors: 3 Updated: July 6, 2023 Views: 159,091 Categories: Handling and Storing Money Print Send fan mail to authors Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 159,091 times. "This app is an interesting, according how l have passing through it it's very clear and l would like to learn more about the app."..." more Share your story In today’s technology-filled world, we often rely on digital transactions and electronic payments. However, there are still many instances where you’ll need to handle physical cash. Whether you’re running a business, working a cash register, or simply managing your personal finances, knowing how to count money accurately and efficiently is an essential skill. This comprehensive guide will equip you with the knowledge and techniques to become a money-counting maestro. Understanding Different Currencies and Denominations Before diving into counting techniques, it’s crucial to familiarize yourself with the currency you’re handling. Different countries have different currencies, each with its own set of denominations. United States: The US dollar (USD) uses denominations of $1, $2, $5, $10, $20, $50, and $100 bills. Coins include penny (1 cent), nickel (5 cents), dime (10 cents), quarter (25 cents), and half-dollar (50 cents). Eurozone: The euro (EUR) uses denominations of €5, €10, €20, €50, €100, €200, and €500 bills. Coins include 1 cent, 2 cents, 5 cents, 10 cents, 20 cents, 50 cents, €1, and €2. Japanese Yen: The Japanese yen (JPY) uses denominations of ¥1,000, ¥2,000, ¥5,000, and ¥10,000 bills. Coins include ¥1, ¥5, ¥10, ¥50, ¥100, and ¥500. Understanding the denominations and their respective values is the first step towards accurate money counting. Basic Counting Techniques 1. Sorting and Organizing Before you start counting, it’s essential to sort and organize the money. Separate the bills by denomination and arrange them in ascending or descending order. This will make the counting process smoother and less prone to errors. For coins, use coin wrappers or containers to separate them by denomination. 2. Counting Bills When counting bills, hold the stack firmly in one hand and use your thumb to flip through the bills one at a time. Count each bill aloud or silently to keep track. As you count, check for any discrepancies, such as counterfeit bills or bills that are damaged or torn. 3. Counting Coins Counting coins can be more time-consuming than counting bills. Start by sorting the coins into their respective denominations. Then, use your fingers to count the coins, either individually or in groups. For example, you can count nickels in groups of two (10 cents) or quarters in groups of four ($1). 4. Double-Checking Your Count Once you’ve finished counting, it’s crucial to double-check your work. This is especially important when dealing with large sums of money. You can recount the money yourself or have someone else verify your count. Advanced Counting Techniques 1. Using a Money Counter Machine For businesses or individuals who handle large volumes of cash, a money counter machine can be a valuable investment. These machines automate the counting process, saving time and reducing the risk of errors. They can also detect counterfeit bills and sort bills by denomination. 2. Implementing the “Batching” Method The batching method involves dividing the money into smaller, more manageable batches. For example, if you’re counting a large stack of $20 bills, you can divide them into batches of 10 or 20 bills. Count each batch separately and then add up the totals. This method can help improve accuracy and reduce fatigue. 3. Utilizing the “Strapping” Technique Strapping is a common technique used in banks and financial institutions. It involves securing stacks of bills with currency straps or bands. Each strap represents a specific denomination and quantity, making it easy to count and transport large sums of money. Tips for Accurate Money Counting Find a quiet and well-lit workspace: Avoid distractions and ensure you have enough light to see the denominations clearly. Take your time: Don’t rush the counting process. Accuracy is more important than speed. Use a calculator: For large sums or complex calculations, a calculator can help ensure accuracy. Keep your hands clean: This will help prevent the bills from becoming dirty or damaged. Practice regularly: The more you practice, the faster and more accurate you’ll become. Handling Counterfeit Money Counterfeit money is a serious problem that can result in financial losses. It’s essential to be vigilant and know how to identify fake bills. Here are some key features to look for: Watermark: Hold the bill up to the light to see a faint image of the person depicted on the bill. Security thread: A thin, vertical strip embedded in the bill that glows under UV light. Color-shifting ink: The numeral in the lower right corner of the bill changes color when tilted. Microprinting: Tiny printed words or numbers that are difficult to replicate. 3D security ribbon: A blue ribbon woven into the paper to the right of the portrait that displays images of bells and “100s” when tilted. If you suspect a bill is counterfeit, do not accept it. Contact your local law enforcement agency or financial institution for assistance. Conclusion Counting money accurately is a fundamental skill that everyone should possess. Whether you’re handling cash for personal or professional reasons, the techniques and tips outlined in this guide will help you become a confident and efficient money counter. Remember to practice regularly, stay vigilant against counterfeit money, and always double-check your work to ensure accuracy. With a little effort and attention to detail, you can master the art of counting money and manage your finances with confidence. The Money Calculator finds the total amount of money by adding up the sum of each denomination of bills and coins. Dollar bills are traditionally called "banknotes" or "notes" so we use these terms in our money calculator. A money counting calculator can be used in many situations that require you to find a total sum of money and can easily be used for any of the following: Money Counter Coin Counter Cash Counter Cash Register Counter Till Counter Use this money calculator to add up the total amount of money for common denominations of bills, coins and rolled or bagged coins in these currencies: United States Dollar USD European Euro EUR Japanese Yen JPY British Pound Sterling GBP Australian Dollar AUD Canadian Dollar CAD Thai Baht THB Swiss Franc CHF Swedish Króna SEK Mexican Peso MXN New Zealand Dollar NZD Indian Rupee INR Philippine Peso PHP Malaysia Ringgit MYR Saudi Riyal SAR Vietnamese Dong VND Please contact me if you would like to use the calculator for an additional currency or rolled coins not listed here. How to Calculate Total Amount of Money To add up the total amount of cash and coins you have, first sort each note and coin according to value. Make a separate pile for each denomination and then count how many of each bill or coin value you have. For each bill and coin value, multiply the number you have by the face value. For example, if you have 4 of $10 note multiply 4 × 10 to get $40. If you have 3 of the $5 note multiply 3 × 5 to get $15. Add all of the totals together to calculate the total sum of money. Steps to Calculate Money Sort cash and coins so that each denomination is in its own stack Make a separate count of how many bills or coins are in each stack For each stack, multiply the face value by the number of bills or coins in that stack Add the totals of all stacks together. This is the sum total of the money. Counting money fast is an important skill to possess if you are dealing with a large amount of cash every day. There are a variety of cash counting techniques that may be used to ensure maximum productivity. Manual or automatic methods may be used to count money fast and these methods will be explored in the following article. There are a variety of techniques one can use when counting money manually. However, they vary according to what type of money is being counted - coins or bills. Break up stacks according to their denomination - Dividing stacks into $1 bills, $5 bills, $10 bills, and so on helps to ensure quick counting. Ensure dollar bills are facing the same way up - this may be done while you are breaking up the stacks into different denominations. Not only does it make it easier to count money, but it also organizes your notes in the process. Consider using a bill counting machine to streamline the process even further. Count individual bills by passing them from hand to hand - pick up a stack of denominations and hold them in your non-dominant hand. Use your pointer finger and dominant thumb to hold the top of the bill to ensure that you are only holding one bill. As you count each bill lay it down on a flat surface, counting according to the denomination of the stack. Divide the counted bills into stacks of 50 - use a rubber band to secure each stack of the same denomination. Before this step, it will be helpful to first calculate what the monetary value will be if it is 50 of each denomination. Add up all the stacks and any leftovers - Add all the stacks together, followed by any leftover bills. It may be more convenient to use a calculator when adding the stacks together. Break up coins according to their denomination - Separate your coins into piles of the same denomination. Choose a dollar amount to count your coins into - Select a dollar amount that will be easy to add up once all of your stacks have been created. The dollar amount will change according to each coin denomination. Create identical stacks - Create identical stacks of each denomination using the initial one as a guide. The monetary value of each stack is irrelevant. What matters is that each stack has the same number of coins. Any surplus coins may be organized into a separate stack that you can set aside. Calculate the total of the stacks and additional coins - This is when you will calculate the monetary value of each denomination stack. Afterwards, calculate the amount of the extra coins. Add all the denomination stacks - Add all the totals from each denomination stack together. It will be easiest to add the total value of your coins together using a calculator and keeping track of the value of each stack by noting it down on a piece of paper. Money counting machines are the fastest way to count money and can be used in a variety of different settings that handle large amounts of cash. This includes banks, retail stores, and movie theaters. As technology has advanced so have money counting machines which are now more portable and compatible with small businesses, as well as being useful for individuals. They allow you to sort through mixed denominations with extreme accuracy and speed in a variety of different settings. Manual counting will never be as fast nor as accurate as a money counting machine as human error is always a possibility. However, the techniques and tips for counting money fast mentioned in this article are always useful to know for those who handle cash every day and might not have access to money counting machines Count in groups of five using your fingers - Fold a stack of bills of the same denomination vertically ensuring that the 4 corners of the bill are all facing downwards. Tighten the folded stack using your pointer finger and thumb on both sides. As you start counting, rotate each bill using the thumb and fingers of your other hand, to press against the folded stack and unravel each bill one at a time. Repeat these actions until you have unraveled and counted the whole stack. Pull each bill using the opposite thumb - Using your thumb, hold a stack of vertically folded bills of the same denomination, ensuring that their corners are facing up. Secure the stack by holding your opposite pointer finger on the back of the stack. Use the thumb of that same hand to pull out the first bill from the other thumb’s grip. This may be done by swiping laterally. As you swipe each bill, make sure to count them. Exchange rubber-banded bills between your hands - Place a rubber band around the middle of a pile of bills that are of the same denomination. Lower the stack horizontally onto the desk in front of you. Your left hand needs to be placed on the left side of the stack, ensuring that only your pointer and middle fingers are extended. Hold the right-hand corner of the stack with your right hand. Move your right thumb to the left of the bill to pass one bill over. Change between using your left pointer finger and left middle finger to hold each bill. Make sure to count accurately while you are doing this. This article has shown a variety of ways that exist to count money fast. Some manual money counting methods may appear difficult at first, but once you have gotten the hang of it it is a very helpful life skill to possess. There are also a wide variety of reputable and technologically advanced money counting machines that may be used if you are seeking an easy way to count money that is also convenient and reliable. Money will always need to be counted; it comes down to personal preference which method you choose to get the job done. Translation missing: en.general.search.loading {"shop": {"id": 5518, "name": "Carnation Bill Money Counting Machines"}, "reviews_card_border_color": "#c5c5c5", "review_publishing": "email", "badge_shop_reviews_link": " , "badge_border_color": "#dae1e7", "badge_secondary_text_color": "#606f7b", "navbar_color": "#000000", "background_color": "#ffffff00", "widget_theme_style": "card", "theme_transparent_color": "initial", "navbar_text_color": "#ffffff", "display_stars_if_no_reviews": false, "badge_stars_color": "#ffc617", "badge_text_color": "#3C3C3C", "secondary_text_color": "#606f7b", "questions_and_answers_active": true, "stars_color": "#FFC617", "server_url": " ", "text_color": "#3d4852", "reviews_card_border_active": false, "number_reviews_per_page": 8, "preferred_language": "en", "buttons_color": "#dae1e7", "fonts": {"navbar_buttons_font_size": "1.125rem", "form_post_font_size": "2.25rem", "image_gallery_title_font_size": "1.875rem", "badge_primary": "1.25rem", "paginator_font_size": "1.125rem", "form_input_font_size": "1.125rem", "star_summary_overall_score_font_size": "2.25rem", "badge_secondary": "1rem", "badge_average_score": "2rem", "reviews_card_secondary_font_size": "1rem", "star_summary_reviewsnum_font_size": "1.5rem", "navbar_reviews_title_font_size": "1.25rem", "star_summary_progress_bars_font_size": "1.125rem", "reviews_card_main_font_size": "1rem", "qna_title_font_size": "1.5rem", "form_headings_font_size": "0.875rem"}, "badge_background_color": "#ffffff", "star_bars_width": "300px", "number_review_columns": 2, "star_bars_width_auto": true} en en es pt Download Article An easy tutorial for quickly counting dollar bills and coins by hand Download Article Recently filled up your piggy bank or money jar and trying to see exactly how much cash you have? You’ve come to the right place! In this article, we’ll offer you a comprehensive guide to adding your bills and coins in the quickest, most organized way possible. We’ll also provide some tips for increasing your speed so you can count your bills with top-dollar efficiency (pun intended). Keep reading to roll through your rolls faster than ever. Before you start counting, separate your bills and coins by denomination (1s, 5s, 10s, pennies, quarters, dimes, etc). Stack your cash or coins in equal-sized piles. You can secure these stacks with a rubber band to keep them organized. Once you’ve stacked all your money into piles of a specific amount, use a calculator to tally up all your money, starting with the largest denominations. 1 Sort your bills by denomination, then create equal-sized stacks of bills. Before you begin counting, create equal-sized stacks of all of your 1s, all of your 5s, all of your 10s, and so on. First, gather all of your bills into one big stack. Then, go through it one bill at a time and put each banknote in its own pile with its respective denomination. (For example, you’ll have a pile of 20s, a separate pile of 50s, and so forth.)[1] Once your cash is sorted, separate each denomination into equal-sized stacks. For example, you might create stacks of ten 1s, ten 5s, ten 10s, etc. Choose a simple, rounded number that’s easy to multiply and appropriate for the amount of cash you have. (You could make stacks of 10 bills, 20 bills, 50 bills, etc.) 2 Adjust the bills so that they’re all facing the same direction. After you separate your bills into different stacks, flip your bills so they’re all facing portrait or vignette-side up. (In the U.S, portrait refers to the side with a leader’s face on it, while vignette refers to the side with the Great Seal.)[2] This will make counting money faster and easier, and keep your stacks more organized.[3] Advertisement 3 Count each bill as you pass it from one hand to the other. Pick up one stack and hold it in your non-dominant hand. Grab the top bill with your dominant thumb and pointer finger to make sure it’s only a single bill and not 2 bills stacked together. Then, use your dominant hand to grab each bill from the pile one at a time and count the denomination out loud. Continue to grab and move the bills until you’ve shifted the entire stack from one hand to the other.[4] For example, if you’re counting a stack of 5 dollar bills, say “5, 10, 15, 20,” as you grab and place the first 4 bills onto the flat surface. 4 Wrap a rubber band around a stack once you reach 50 bills. To avoid creating uneven stacks (which will make it tough to calculate later on) and piles of cash that might tip over, bundle your money in stacks. Wrap each stack up with a rubber band. It can help to memorize the value of each stack beforehand. For example, if you’re making stacks of 50 bills each:[5] A stack of $5 bills = $250. A stack of $10 bills = $500. A stack of $20 bills = $1,000, etc. 5 Add up all your banded stacks and leftover bills. Continue banding each stack of 50 bills and setting them aside. Once you’re out of bills, use a calculator to add the total of each stack together, and add on any leftover bills afterward.[6] Start with higher denominations first (100s, 50s, 20s). Then, work your way down to the smaller values like 1s.[7] . For example, if you have 3 fifty-bill stacks of 20s, 2 stacks of 10s, 5 stacks of 5s, and 23 loose 1 dollar bills, your math would look like this: 1,000 + 1,000 + 1,000 + 500 + 500 + 250 + 250 + 250 + 250 + 250 + 23 = 5,273. 6 Re-count your stack to ensure your total is accurate. Always double-check your total when you’re counting cash.[8] Once you’ve finished counting your stacks the first time, write down your total. Then, re-calculate. If your number matches, then your total is right. If you calculate a new number, re-count to double-check that new total. For example, if you counted $5,273 the first time, but, after counting again got $5,272, write down $5,272 and count again. You can also use a bill-counting machine or money-counting app to help you double-check your work. Advertisement 1 Separate your coins by denomination. Divide your pile of change into multiple stacks that represent every denomination of coin you have. For instance, you may have a pile of quarters, a pile of dimes, a pile of nickels, and a pile of pennies once you’re done sorting.[9] 2 Organize each type of coin into stacks of a certain dollar amount. Count a stack of specific coins (pennies, dimes, corners) into a pile. Once the value of your coins reaches a dollar amount that’s easy to add, set that pile aside. It’s okay if the dollar amount varies for each denomination, but make sure the number of coins in each pile is consistent.[10] For example, each stack of quarters may be worth $2 (8 coins) while each stack of pennies may only be worth $0.10 (10 coins). 3 Make identical stacks out of the remaining coins. Using the initial stack as a model, make identical stacks out of the rest of the coins in that specific denomination pile. There’s no need to keep track of monetary value while you do this; just focus on creating stacks with the same exact number of coins as the first one. If you have extra coins that don’t quite complete one stack, organize them into a stack and set them aside nearby.[11] 4 Add the stacks and extra coins up for each denomination. Once you’ve made stacks out of all of the coins in a denomination, count the stacks by their monetary value and add them together. Then, add on the value of the leftover coins and write the total number down. It may help to use a calculator when counting your coins.[12] For example, if you have 9 stacks of 8 quarters (worth $2), think or say, “2, 4 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18” while you count the stacks. If you have 3 extra quarters, your math will look like this: $18.00 + $0.75 = $18.75. 5 Add all the denomination piles together. Once you’ve written a total for each denomination pile, add the totals of each pile together. For example, if your quarter pile is worth $18.75, your dime pile is worth $11.60, your nickel pile is worth $3.15, and your penny pile is worth $1.33, then your math would be: $18.75 + $11.60 + $3.15 + $1.33 = $34.83. Write down your total on a sheet of paper when you’re finished.[13] 6 Re-count your coins to double-check your math. Once you’ve determined the total value of all your coins combined, re-count your stacks to ensure that your math is accurate. If you calculate the same total on your second try as you did on your first try, you can put your coins back (but keep the total number you wrote down somewhere safe). Counting money by hand isn’t as effective as using counting by machine. While it’s more expensive, consider getting a coin counter to help you calculate your cash. Most banks also have a coin counter that you can use if you’re a member, free of charge.[14] Advertisement 1 Use each of your fingers to count bills in groups of 5. Hold a stack of bills (that are all the same denomination) in your non-dominant hand. Fold these bills in half vertically so that all 4 corners are facing up. Then, using one finger at a time on your dominant hand, slide and unfold the bills from the pile. Count how many times you swipe through all your fingers (every count will contain 5 bills).[15] For example, pull down the 1st bill in the folded stack with your thumb, the 2nd with your pointer finger, the 3rd bill with your middle finger, the 4th with your ring finger, and the 5th with your pinky. Repeat until you’ve pulled down and counted the whole stack. Multiply the number of counts you made by 5 to get the total number of bills. Then, multiply the number of bills by the denomination to get your total. 2 Pull individual bills from one hand’s grip with your opposite thumb. In your non-dominant hand, hold a stack of bills (of the same denomination) that are folded vertically with the corners facing up. Secure this stack in place with your non-dominant thumb. Then, use your dominant thumb to press down on the front of the first bill and pull it out from underneath the other thumb’s grasp by swiping laterally. Count while swiping each bill this way.[16] Remember: practice makes perfect. The more you practice this technique, the faster you’ll be at counting cash. 3 Pass banded bills from one hand to the other. Place a banded stack of bills (of the same denomination) horizontally on a flat surface in front of you. Grab the stack by the top right corner with your right hand. Then, alternate using your left pointer and middle finger to grab and count each bill individually.[17] Practice this method at least once a day to increase your speed. Consider timing yourself each time and keep trying to beat your previous record. Advertisement Add New Question Question When trying to slide a bill, my finger slips. Try using a rubber fingertip or a fingertip moisturizer, available in office-supply stores. Question How do I give change to someone? Start by stating the purchase price of the item. Then count up to the amount of money the person gave you, handing over the change incrementally as you do so. For example, if the purchase price was $2.76, and the person gave you a five-dollar bill, you would say, "two seventy-six," then hand the person four cents and say, "two eighty," then hand over two dimes and say, "three dollars," and then give person two dollars bills and say, "four and five dollars." Ask a Question Advertisement Reviewed by: Financial Literacy Expert This article was reviewed by Andrew Lokenauth and by wikiHow staff writer, Finn Kobler. Andrew Lokenauth is a Finance Expert who has over 15 years of experience working on Wall St. and in Tech & Start-ups. Andrew helps management teams translate their financials into actionable business decisions. He has held positions at Goldman Sachs, Citi, and JPMorgan Asset Management. 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