

# Making Cents

## The Minting Process

Learn how coins are made.

Coins are made at U.S. Mint offices. A **mint** is a place that makes coins. Coin-making is called **minting**. Follow the steps below to learn how a sheet of metal becomes a pile of new coins.

## Making Blanks



Getty Images

**(1)** Large sheets of metal go through a machine that punches out circle shapes called **blanks**. The blanks are heated to make them soft. Then they are put in machines where they are washed, dried, and polished.

## Raising the Edges



AP Images

(2) The blanks go through another machine that raises a tiny rim around the edge on each side. The rim protects the coin's design. It also makes the coins easier to stack on top of one another.

### Adding Details



AP Images

(3) The blanks go through a **coining press**. It presses both sides of each blank with pictures, words, and numbers.

### Checking for Mistakes



AP Images

(4) Workers check the design on each coin. A machine called a **coin sizer** makes sure each coin is the right shape. If a coin is not perfect, it does not leave the U.S. Mint.

### Counting and Bagging



James L. Amos/Photo  
Researchers

(5) A **counting machine** drops the coins into large cloth bags. The bags are taken to banks, where people get the shiny, new coins!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Answer the following four questions based on the information in the passage.

1. Why is it important to have the edges of coins raised?

\_\_\_\_\_  
-----  
\_\_\_\_\_  
-----  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the third step in the process of making a coin at the U.S. Mint?

\_\_\_\_\_  
-----  
\_\_\_\_\_  
-----  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. If you wanted a brand new quarter, where could you go to get one?

\_\_\_\_\_  
-----  
\_\_\_\_\_  
-----  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is this passage mostly about?

\_\_\_\_\_  
-----  
\_\_\_\_\_  
-----  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Please read the sentence below and then write the word or phrase that best answers the questions. The first answer has been provided for you.

*During step four of the minting process, workers check the design on each coin by using special glasses.*

Who? workers

**5.** (do) What?

\_\_\_\_\_

-----

\_\_\_\_\_

-----

\_\_\_\_\_

**6.** When?

\_\_\_\_\_

-----

\_\_\_\_\_

-----

\_\_\_\_\_

**7.** How?

\_\_\_\_\_

-----

\_\_\_\_\_

-----

\_\_\_\_\_

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

The edges of coins are raised, \_\_\_\_\_ their designs are protected.

- A but
- B because
- C so

**Directions:** Read the vocabulary word and definition below. Then answer questions 9 and 10.

Vocabulary Word: **mint** (mint): a place that makes coins; to make coins; a peppermint flavor that comes from a certain plant.

9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **mint**.
- a. Workers at the mint had to wear gloves so that they did not smudge the coins.
  - b. My grandmother loves the fresh taste of mint, so we buy her peppermint-flavored candies on Valentine's Day.
  - c. If you have ever seen newly minted coins, you know how shiny they are!
  - d. A girl did a research project on the U.S. Mint and shared her findings with the class.
  - e. Banks depend on U.S. Mint offices to supply them with coins.

10. Which picture does NOT show a minted coin?

