Currency Exchange
Worksheet: Europe

Things are expensive in Europe! Practice figuring exchange rates so you know how much something costs when you are in there. You’ll have less culture shock and less frustration if you have an idea of how many pounds something should cost. Become familiar with the bills, do not simply hold out your bills and let the shopkeeper take what he needs. Have the money out and ready before you pay whenever possible!

If a CD in London costs 9 pounds, how many American dollars would that be?
Answer: 9 Pounds X 1.996 (or whatever the current rate of exchange is) = $17.96

Tip! I double the British Pound for a fast “guesstimate,” i.e. 9 Pounds = approx. $18. Then I know that I’m really paying less and I don’t have to get out my calculator for small purchases.

Figure these conversions:
1. A souvenir costs 4 pounds = $___________
If a CD in Paris costs 13 Euros, how many American dollars would that be?
Answer: 13 Euros X 1.36 (or whatever the current rate of exchange is) = $17.73
To figure out how many dollars the euros are, multiply the # of euros X $1.36
2. If you see a purse that costs 15 Euros, how many dollars would that purse be? ________________
3. A carnet of 10 metro tickets costs 10.90 Euros = $________
4. If you don’t keep your current metro ticket with the time stamped on it and a “controller” comes on the metro car you are on and asks to see your validated (stamped) ticket and you don’t have one, he/she will make you pay on the spot and in cash 35 Euros = $___________ (moral: keep your ticket until you leave the system at your destination and then throw it away so you don’t mix them up with good ones or already used ones.)

Tip! If you want to know how many Pounds you should receive for $50, then you simply divide by 1.996. $50 divided by 1.996 = 25.05 Pounds (It’s of course easier to divide by 2 to get a close estimate.) If you want to know how many Euros you should receive for $50, then you simply divide by 1.36 $50 divided by 1.36 = 36.77 Euros.

Tip! I always keep a coin purse for each currency (or at least a ZipLock). Then I switch my British Pounds that are left in to a coin purse that I don’t use and put it in my suitcase as soon as I arrive in France. That way I am not trying to read each coin and pick out the American, British or Euro coins while the shopkeeper waits. You will need to keep some American dollars in your fanny pack or purse for purchasing food or drinks at the airport!