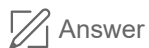


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English (language)

Why do people say 'my 2 cents'?

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2 Answers



Robert Charles Lee, 35+ years in editorial & publishing, British speaker, work in American English

Updated Oct 31, 2014



They want to make it clear that it's their own opinion and that it's not necessarily an informed or educated one. So they put in the rider "my 2 cents" (as nicely explained by [Margaret Plotkin](#)).

If you're fond of anglicisms, try "my twopence worth." (*Twopence* pronounced as "tuppence.")

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Mikhail Kotykhov

Would saying 5 cents be OK, or 2 cents is a more common form? Just curious. :)



Philip Newton, native speaker of English, received my schooling through English

Answered Oct 24, 2014



Wikipedia offers several possible etymologies:

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story, several wealthy temple patrons donate large sums of money, but an extremely poor widow places just two small coins, i.e. her two cents, into the offering. She finds greater favor with [Jesus](#) than do the wealthy patrons, seeing that the widow gave all of her money to the Temple in Jerusalem while the wealthy patrons had much money left over for themselves.

Some believe that the phrase...

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