Tetley English Breakfast

From the teas.co.uk wiki

> **Tetley English Breakfast, in summary:** Tetley English Breakfast sits between PG Tips and Yorkshire Tea on cup character. The blend, the price point, and how it compares to UK black tea rivals.

Last reviewed by the teas.co.uk team in May 2026.

Tetley EB (English Breakfast) is the brand's morning workhorse, the strong, malty, milk friendly black tea that's been fuelling British breakfasts for decades. Mass market priced at 6-8p per cup, available everywhere, consistent quality. Yorkshire Tea's main mainstream competitor. The classic British morning tea routine.

The product

Tetley English Breakfast (often shortened to "Tetley EB" or just "Tetley Original"):

- Strong black tea blend, primarily Assam style and Kenyan tea.
- Designed for milk and sugar drinking.
- Mass market mainstream, available at every supermarket.

How it tastes

- **Aroma:** Strong, malty, robust black tea.
- **First sip:** Full body; substantial mouthfeel.
- **Mid cup:** Malty, with mild tannin grip.
- **Finish:** Long, satisfying.
- **With milk + sugar:** Classic British workhorse.

Curator Rating: 4.9/5 for the everyday category.

How to brew

1. 1 tea bag in a mug.

2. 200ml just boiled water.
3. Steep 3-4 minutes.
4. Squeeze the bag.
5. Add splash of milk + 1-2 sugars to taste.

The Tetley brand history

Tetley was founded in 1837 in Huddersfield, Yorkshire by Joseph and Edward Tetley as a salt and tea merchant. Became one of Britain's biggest tea brands by the 20th century. Acquired by Tata Consumer Products in 2000.

Tetley pioneered the round tea bag (1989) and the drawstring tea bag (1995).

Use cases

British breakfast tea

The flagship use. Strong, milk and sugar, ideal with toast or full breakfast.

Daily workhorse

Multiple cups across the day for committed daily drinkers.

Workplace tea

Office, factory, construction site standard.

Pot brewing

Strong enough to make 3-4 cups from one pot brewing.

Builders' tea

The classic builders' tea base. More on workers' tea.

Compared to similar products

vs Yorkshire Tea

The eternal British rivalry. Yorkshire is slightly fuller bodied; Tetley is slightly more brisk. Both excellent. Personal preference rather than quality difference.

vs PG Tips

PG Tips is brisker, more tannic. Tetley is fuller, maltier.

vs Twinings English Breakfast

Twinings is mainstream premium, slightly more refined. Tetley is workhorse mass market.

vs Tetley Extra Strong

Extra Strong is meaningfully stronger; standard Tetley EB is the everyday baseline.

Caffeine

40-50mg per cup.

Vegan

Yes, pure black tea, plant based. Use plant milk for vegan version.

Pricing

Mainstream mass market, typically £6-15 for 240-bag pack. 6-8p per cup.

Buying

Available everywhere, every supermarket, corner shop, and online retailer. Use /buy/tetley/.

Pack sizes

- 40-bag (small)
- 80-bag (regular)
- 240-bag (committed daily drinker)
- 440-bag (household share)
- 600-bag (large household / workplace)

Storage

Airtight tin or original packaging. Use within 12 months opened.

Pairings

- Toast with butter and Marmite.
- Bacon sandwich.
- Full English breakfast.
- McVitie's Digestives.
- Hobnobs.
- Custard Creams.
- Bourbons.
- Cake.

The Tetley range overview

- Tetley Original (English Breakfast).
- Tetley Extra Strong.
- Tetley Earl Grey.
- Tetley Decaf.

- Tetley One Cup.
- Tetley Seriously Refreshing.
- Tetley Indulgence range (Lemon Drizzle, Chocolate Mint Tart, Digestive Biscuit, Sticky Toffee Pudding).
- Tetley Green Tea range.
- Tetley Herbal range.
- Tetley Cold Infuse range.

Who it's for

- British everyday tea drinkers.
- Milk and sugar drinkers.
- Workplace tea round leaders.
- Strong tea preferrers.
- Mainstream supermarket shoppers.

FAQ

How does Tetley EB compare to Yorkshire Tea? Yorkshire fuller bodied; Tetley slightly brisker. Personal preference.

Caffeine? 40-50mg per cup.

Best with milk? Yes, designed for milk and sugar drinking.

How long to steep? 3-4 minutes.

Vegan? Yes (with plant milk).

Curator's note: Tetley English Breakfast is one of the great British everyday teas. Mass market price, workhorse strength, available everywhere. Worth keeping a 240-bag pack as the household standby. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

In short: Tetley English Breakfast

Field	Detail
Format	Standard round teabag, fannings cut
Blend	Multi-origin black tea (mainly Kenyan, with Indian estates)
Caffeine	Moderate-strong; ~40-50mg per cup
UK price	£2.20 to £2.50 for 80 bags
Cup character	Brisk, slightly lighter than Yorkshire Tea, classic English Breakfast briefing
Best for	Everyday morning cup; takes milk well

What to buy now

Buy Tetley English Breakfast for the value-aware everyday cup. Compare against Yorkshire Tea for the maltier alternative, PG Tips for the briskier Kenyan-led variation, and Twinings English Breakfast for the slightly more refined supermarket option. Brew at full boil for 3 minutes, milk and sugar to taste.

Reference noted

- EFSA Scientific Opinion on the Safety of Caffeine (2015)

FROM THE CURATOR

teas · Buy on the cup, not on the label. The wider shelf is there for when you know what you like.

English Breakfast reading

For brand context see the Tetley deep dive and the Yorkshire Tea deep dive. For English Breakfast category context see the English Breakfast piece, the traditional breakfast blends overview, and the English vs Irish breakfast comparison.

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