Is PG Tips Good?

From the teas.co.uk wiki

> **Is PG Tips good, in summary:** PG Tips is good at what it is for, a cheap, fast, strong, consistent everyday milky cup, but it is CTC by design, not a delicate loose leaf tea.

"Is PG Tips good?" depends on what you want from it. Next in line among the brand pages is is Yorkshire Tea good.

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

Is PG Tips good, at a glance

Aspect	The read
What it is	A mass-market CTC black blend, strong, brisk, milk-built
Properly good at	A reliable, cheap, fast, strong everyday milky cup
Leaf grade	CTC (crush-tear-curl): small particles for speed and strength, not nuance
Falls short	No complexity, single-note; not for drinking without milk
Verdict	Good at exactly what it is for; not a connoisseur tea, and does not pretend to be

What "good" means for a tea like this

The fairest way to answer "is PG Tips good" is to be clear about what it is trying to be, because judging it as a single-estate loose leaf is a category error. PG Tips is a blended CTC (crush-tear-curl) black tea from many gardens, mostly African, engineered for one job: a strong, brisk, reliably consistent mug that takes milk well, brews fast, and tastes the same all year round. Measured against that brief it is good, and does exactly the job it's meant to. The CTC process shreds the leaf into hard granules with a large surface area, which is why it colours up in ninety seconds and punches through milk and a busy morning; that same process strips out the delicate high notes you would pay for in a loose-leaf Darjeeling, so the trade is deliberate, nuance sacrificed for speed, strength and consistency, see loose leaf vs tea bags. Consistency is the underrated achievement: a blender buying from dozens of variable estates and re-proportioning constantly so the granule behaves identically batch after batch is doing real, if reproducibility-aimed, work, see how to judge tea quality.

The weak spots, and who should look elsewhere

The limitations are real. PG Tips is one-dimensional by design: brisk is mostly all it is, with little of the malt, stone-fruit or floral complexity a comparable-price loose black can offer, and brewed without milk it can read as flat and hollow. If you drink your tea black, or you have started noticing the difference between origins, this is the wrong product and no brand loyalty changes that, see black tea. The pyramid bag does help marginally versus a tightly packed flat bag, but the contents are still fine CTC dust, not whole leaf, so it is a real-but-minor improvement rather than a transformation. On value it is strong: per-cup, a mainstream blend is among the cheapest hot drinks you can make, which makes it the rational floor, good enough that cheaper supermarket value tea is a false economy, ordinary enough that an occasional better leaf is a small, high-return luxury, see saving money on tea.

How to get the best from it

Most disappointment with mainstream tea is a brewing problem, not a product one. Use freshly boiled water poured straight onto the bag, give it a full two to three minutes rather than a ten second dunk, squeeze the bag once at the end, and add the milk after the brew so the water stays hot enough to extract properly. Done that way the same bag that tastes thin and grey when rushed becomes the brisk, full mug the blend is capable of. The bigger picture is the one this wiki keeps reaching: the brand is rarely the variable that decides whether your tea is good, your water, your method and being clear about what you actually want from the cup decide it.

What to buy

If you want more in the cup than a CTC bag can give, the upgrade is loose leaf, not another brand: browse the loose leaf range or a better everyday black tea. Browse the full tea shop; free UK delivery over £35.

Reference noted

- Encyclopaedia Britannica: Tea (beverage)

FROM THE CURATOR

teas · Price PG Tips by the cup and ignore the box size. Loose leaf mostly wins, though a bag like PG Tips can keep up.

Tea-brand reading

- Is Yorkshire Tea good
- Loose leaf vs tea bags
- How to judge tea quality
- How to save money on tea

More from the tea wiki

- Green tea
- Black tea
- Oolong tea
- White tea
- Herbal tea
- Caffeine in tea
- How to make tea properly
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