Best English Breakfast Tea Bags UK

From the teas.co.uk wiki

> **Best English Breakfast bags, in summary:** English Breakfast tea bags compared by body, malt, format and value: Yorkshire, PG Tips, Twinings, Hyson and Tetley, and how to brew each.

Last reviewed by the teas.co.uk team on 8 August 2026.

The "best English Breakfast tea bags UK" question is the single most Googled British tea query. Most rankings online are SEO content farms with no actual tea. This is our straight ranking, bag by bag, brewed side by side in our Tunbridge Wells office, scored on cup quality, cost per cup, milk performance, and bag construction (round vs pyramid vs string and tag).

What English Breakfast actually is

A blend of black teas chosen to take milk and sugar without losing character. Most British versions are Assam led for body, with Ceylon for brightness and Kenyan for colour and reliability. The exact ratios are brand secrets, and the differences between brands are real and tasteable. The "Breakfast" name comes from the Victorian era, when the blend was formulated to revive someone who had been at it the night before.

The methodology

For each brand we brewed one bag in 250ml of just boiled water for 4 minutes, with and without milk, in a standard ceramic mug. Same kettle, same water (Tunbridge Wells, soft side of medium), same milk (whole), same brewing time. Scored on aroma, body, malt character, brightness, finish, and milk integration. Cost per cup is the teas.co.uk price divided by the number of bags in the pack. The prices below are our autumn sale prices on 18 September 2026 (the sale ends 15 November); each product page shows today's price.

The ranking, every English Breakfast tea bag worth your money

1. **Yorkshire Tea Original, the best all round.**
   Bag: round, paper. Cup: dark mahogany. Body: heavy. Malt: strong (Assam led). Brightness: moderate. Finish: clean.
   Cost: **4.5p a cup** (£3.60 for 80 bags). Take with milk; one sugar optional.

Verdict: it takes milk very well, turns dark within 90 seconds and still doesn't over extract at 5 minutes. The reason it is Britain's best loved tea is that it does the standard cup better than the standard cup is normally done.

2. **Yorkshire Gold, the step up.**
   Bag: round, paper. Cup: deep amber. Body: full. Malt: more pronounced than Original. Caffeine: present, with the amount varying by bag, serving and brew.
   Cost: **6.25p a cup** (£5.00 for 80 bags). Worth the step up.
   Verdict: heavier Assam, more refined, the after dinner cup. If Yorkshire Original is your everyday, Yorkshire Gold is your "make it nice" upgrade.
3. **PG Tips Pyramid, the brisk one.**
   Bag: pyramid (the leaf has room to move). Cup: amber. Body: lighter than Yorkshire, brisker. Kenyan led blend.
   Cost: **3.75p a cup** (£3.00 for 80 bags).
   Verdict: brews quickly, lighter character, takes milk and sugar well. The "morning" cup vs Yorkshire's "any time" cup. Slightly sharper edge that some prefer with two sugars.
4. **Twinings English Breakfast, the refined one.**
   Bag: round, paper. Cup: golden amber. Body: medium. More balanced, less malt forward than Yorkshire.
   Cost: not sold at teas.co.uk, so no price is given here.
   Verdict: the cup most British drinkers think of when "tea" is served at work. Drinkable both with and without milk. Twinings has been doing this since 1706 and the consistency shows.
5. **Hyson Premium Breakfast, the value pick.**
   Bag: round, paper. Cup: amber bright. Body: medium full. Ceylon led, single origin.
   Cost: **3.8p a cup** (£3.80 for 100 bags).
   Verdict: punches above its price. The discovery pick. Lee's value recommendation.
6. **Tetley Original, the supermarket benchmark.**
   Bag: round, paper. Cup: amber. Body: medium light. Reliable, well distributed, consistent batch to batch.
   Cost: **4.5p a cup** (£3.60 for 80 bags).
   Verdict: clear, drinkable, no surprises. Tea bag of the British workplace canteen for a reason.
7. **Tetley Stronger Brew.**
   Bag: round. Cup: deep amber. Body: full (heavier on Assam than standard Tetley).
   Cost: not sold at teas.co.uk, so no price is given here.
   Verdict: the Tetley response to drinkers who found standard Tetley too light. Closer to Yorkshire on character.
8. **Twinings English Breakfast Strong.**
   Bag: round. Cup: deep amber. Body: full. Twinings polish with Yorkshire weight.
   Cost: not sold at teas.co.uk, so no price is given here.
   Verdict: refined and strong, a hard combination to find. Worth a try if standard Twinings is too light and Yorkshire is too rough.

By use case

For…	Buy
Everyday best cup	Yorkshire Tea Original
Best on a tight budget	Hyson Premium Breakfast or Tetley Original
Brisker morning cup	PG Tips Pyramid
Refined, less malty	Twinings English Breakfast
Stronger than Yorkshire	Yorkshire Gold or Tetley Stronger
Office bulk	Tetley 480s or Yorkshire 480s
Decaf evening	Yorkshire Tea Decaf

Quick Buy: Yorkshire Tea Original 80s

Pyramid vs round bag, does it actually matter?

Yes, slightly. Pyramid bags (PG Tips, Teapigs, premium Tetley pyramids) give the leaf room to expand and move, producing a fuller cup than a flat round paper bag at the same brewing time. The difference is real but smaller than the gap between brands. A PG Tips pyramid brews a little fuller than a Tetley round bag at 4 minutes, but a Yorkshire Tea round bag still beats a PG Tips pyramid because the blend itself is heavier.

Bag construction matters less than the leaf inside.

How to brew English Breakfast bags properly

Just boiled water (95-100°C). Pour over the bag in the cup. Steep **4 minutes** most people miss this and pull at 90 seconds, getting half the cup. Stir gently at 2 minutes; do not squeeze the bag (releases tannins, makes the cup bitter). Add milk after, never before. Sugar to taste.

If you want it loose

This ranking is bags, but English Breakfast is also sold as whole leaf for a teapot, and Whittard's loose English Breakfast is the cup you would serve in an afternoon tea spread. For the pot: 1 teaspoon (2.5g) per cup plus one for the pot, just boiled water, steep 4 to 5 minutes, then pour through a strainer. Milk in the cup before or after the tea both work, with a slightly different mouthfeel.

Decaf English Breakfast

Yorkshire Tea Decaf is the closest decaf to its caffeinated parent on the UK market, and the default for evening English Breakfast drinkers. More on decaf options.

FAQ

Which English Breakfast tea bag is best? Yorkshire Tea Original for the all round cup. Hyson Premium Breakfast for value. Twinings for refined.

What is the strongest English Breakfast tea bag? For flavour and body, Yorkshire Gold and products explicitly sold as stronger brews are sensible starting points. Strength of taste is not a dependable caffeine

measurement.

Best English Breakfast tea bag without milk? Twinings English Breakfast or Whittard's bagged English Breakfast, both are lighter and better balanced for black drinking.

Cheapest English Breakfast tea bag UK? At teas.co.uk prices on 18 September 2026, PG Tips Original in the 400-bag pack is the lowest per bag, at 1.6p (£6.40). In smaller packs, PG Tips Original 80 (3.75p) and Hyson Premium Breakfast 100 (3.8p) cost least, and Hyson is arguably the better tea.

Is English Breakfast the same as Yorkshire Tea? Yorkshire Tea is technically an English Breakfast style blend, but Taylors of Harrogate market it under its own name. Same general flavour profile, slightly stronger than typical English Breakfast.

Why does the UK drink it with milk? Because the blend was designed for it. Assam heavy blacks have enough body that milk doesn't drown them; the malt and milk combine into the canonical "British cuppa" flavour. American "English Breakfast" served black tastes thin to many British drinkers because the brewing assumption is different.

Curator's note: if you only buy one tea bag, make it Yorkshire Tea Original. If you only buy two, make it Yorkshire Original and Yorkshire Decaf. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

Quick take

Yorkshire Tea Original is the best all round English Breakfast bag; Yorkshire Gold the stronger step up; PG Tips the brisk two sugar morning cup; Twinings the refined, milk optional choice; Hyson Premium Breakfast the value upset that beats its price; Tetley the sound supermarket benchmark. The bag shape matters less than the leaf and far less than the brewing: full boil, four minutes, no squeeze, milk after. For the wider brand picture see the best British tea bags guide.

> **Stock the everyday tin:** the all round and stronger picks from Yorkshire Tea, the brisk morning cup from PG Tips, the refined option from Twinings, or the value upset from Hyson. Browse the full British black tea range.

FROM THE CURATOR

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