THE ERROR-10 CHECKLIST

10 pocket-change errors to check before you spend it

UNITED NONCENTZ · PROOF FIRST, PRICE SECOND



1 1984 Lincoln Cent — Doubled Ear

LOOK: A rounded second earlobe directly below Lincoln's ear — visible without a loupe. Check the bow tie too: it carries the widest doubling.

WHERE: Obverse — Lincoln's ear. Philadelphia only (no mint mark).

2 1995 Lincoln Cent — Doubled Die (FS-101)

LOOK: Bold doubling on LIBERTY you can see with the naked eye; the motto doubles too. The date barely doubles — check LIBERTY first, date last.

WHERE: Obverse — LIBERTY and IN GOD WE TRUST.

3 1982 Lincoln Cent — Copper or Zinc?

LOOK: Weigh it. Copper cents read 3.11 g; zinc cents read 2.50 g. A 1982-D Small Date at 3.11 g gets set aside — never spent.

WHERE: Your scale — date and mint mark side up.

4 2004-D Wisconsin Quarter — Extra Leaf

LOOK: An extra raised leaf on the left side of the corn ear — arcing up (High) or drooping down (Low). Smooth and raised, never a scratch. Denver mint only.

WHERE: Reverse — left side of the ear of corn, below the cheese wheel.

5 2005 Minnesota Quarter — Extra Tree

LOOK: A partial extra tree floating free in the field beside a real tree — not just doubled outlines. Faint thickening of a tree is not it.

WHERE: Reverse — right of the fourth tree to the right of the state outline.

6 2007 Washington Dollar — Missing Edge Lettering

LOOK: A completely smooth edge: no date, no mint mark, no motto anywhere on the coin. Any trace of lettering means it is not this error.

WHERE: The edge — roll the coin under a light.

7 1878 Morgan Dollar — Tail Feather Types

LOOK: Count the tail feathers: 8, 7-over-8 (old feather tips poking out below), or 7. Flat breast + parallel top arrow feather = Reverse of 1878; rounded breast + slanted arrow feather = Reverse of 1879.

WHERE: Reverse — eagle's tail feathers, breast, and top arrow feather.

8 1887/6 Morgan Dollar — Overdate

LOOK: The faint bottom curve of a 6 peeking out below and to the right of the base of the 7. Faint is right — a bold '6 inside the 7' is a red flag. Struck in Philadelphia and New Orleans.

WHERE: Obverse — the base of the 7 in the date.

9 1900-O Morgan Dollar — O/CC Overmintmark

LOOK: Raised, curved C remnants beside and around the O mint mark. Beware the tiny 'Micro O' — that is a counterfeit warning sign, not a find.

WHERE: Reverse — mint mark above the DO in DOLLAR.

10 Morgan & Peace Dollars — The Spec Check

LOOK: Genuine weighs 26.73 g and measures 38.1 mm. A full gram light means copy, not wear — and a Morgan dated 1905–1920 never existed at all.

WHERE: Scale and calipers — before anything else.

Flat, shelf-like doubling that cuts into a letter is machine doubling — not an error, no premium. This checklist is an educational identification aid, not a grading or appraisal opinion. Screening narrows suspects; it does not authenticate a valuable coin.