

The Missing Pound



Three friends go to a restaurant and decide to split the bill after the meal. The waiter says the bill is £30, so the friends split it evenly and pay £10 each. The waiter accepts the money but is a little offended that he didn't receive a tip.

As he's walking away from the table, the waiter realizes that he has overcharged the group and the bill should only be £25.

To rectify the situation, he decides to take £5 back to the table in order to reduce the bill to £25. However, on the way back to the table, he realizes that he cannot divide £5 equally between three people.

So, as the customers are unaware of the true total of the bill, the waiter decides to give £3 back to the group, giving £1 back to each customer, saying that the bill is actually only £27, and keeping £2 as a tip for himself.

So, each customer paid £9 each, making the total paid £27. The waiter has £2. Total = £29. But the customers originally paid £30, so what happened to the other £1?

Explanation:

Original bill: $30 = 10 + 10 + 10$
Reduced bill: $30 - 5 = 30 - (3 + 2) = 25$
Erroneous calculation: $30 - (3 + 2) = 30 - 3 - 2 = 25$
not $30 - 3 + 2 = 29$

9 10	30
9 10	
9 10	
-2	-5
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25	25

