

## Understanding your bills

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It really helps if you understand your energy bill as this will help you to see where you can save money. Unfortunately, every energy bill is laid out differently, but don't despair. The Which? website provides a handy list of the energy companies' guides to their own bills: <http://switch.which.co.uk/energy-advice/understanding-your-energy-bill.html>.

The main sections are usually as follows:

### Your tariff

The tariff is made up of two sections:

- the price per unit of energy
- any standing charge that is levied irrespective of how much energy you use.

The tariff that you are currently on should be clearly displayed on your statement. You will need this if you wish to put your current details into a price comparison website.

### Your meter readings

On the statement, your meter readings are usually followed by one of three letters :

- **A (for Actual)** means that an official meter reader has taken the reading on that occasion.
- **E (for Estimated)** means that the reading has been estimated based on previous consumption patterns.
- **C (for customer)** means that you have supplied a reading yourself on that occasion

### Your charges

What you owe. This is the cost of the energy used plus any standing charges, less any discounts and credit balances you might have.

### Your usage summary

Each statement will provide details of how much energy (in kWh) you have used over the last year, and sometimes a comparison with the previous year. Again, this information is usually requested by price comparison websites.