

3

Unit Price Math

Lesson 2.2.3 · Cost per unit · with Macon

I CAN
work out the price of one, so I can tell which package is really cheaper.

Macon is choosing markers. **12-pack for \$6.00** or **24-pack for \$11.50**. Bigger is not always better. Use the formula.

The formula
Total price ÷ number of units = price of one

ITEM	PACKAGE A	PRICE OF ONE	PACKAGE B	PRICE OF ONE	CHEAPER?
Markers	12 for \$6.00		24 for \$11.50		
Juice pouches	8 for \$4.00		18 for \$8.10		
Pencils	10 for \$2.50		24 for \$5.76		
Glue sticks	3 for \$2.10		8 for \$5.20		

Answers and talking points

What a good answer looks like, and one question to ask when the pencils go down.

Item	Package A	Price of one	Package B	Price of one	Cheaper
Markers	12 for \$6.00	\$0.50	24 for \$11.50	about \$0.48	B
Juice pouches	8 for \$4.00	\$0.50	18 for \$8.10	\$0.45	B
Pencils	10 for \$2.50	\$0.25	24 for \$5.76	\$0.24	B
Glue sticks	3 for \$2.10	\$0.70	8 for \$5.20	\$0.65	B

3–5 Watch for this

In **this** set the larger pack wins every time, so a student can get all four right by never dividing. The sheet says bigger is not always better — and on this page it always is. **Say so, and then break it.** Offer a fifth row out loud: 6 erasers for \$1.80 against 10 for \$3.20. Now A is cheaper, at \$0.30 against \$0.32.

Ask: “When would you buy the smaller pack even though it costs more per one?” If it will spoil, if you cannot store it, or if you do not have the larger amount today.

3–5 The method

Total price ÷ number of units = price of one. Round to the nearest cent and compare. The markers row is the only one that needs rounding, which is why it is first.

Ask: “Which of these would you actually buy?” Cheapest per unit and best choice are not always the same thing.

Want the rest of the unit?

This page is one activity, unchanged, from **Unit 2.2 — Smart Spending**, a Financial Foundations™ unit of 10 to 12 lessons with teacher scripts, family letters and a unit checkpoint. For a free five-day money game your students can play in a browser, try **The \$100 Week™**. Everything is at wealthwisekids.org.