

# Calculate the Cost

At school, your child is learning about percentages through real-world lessons on sales tax, discounts, and the actual cost of the things they buy. Extend the math learning at home with this eye-opening exercise.



**Research:** Find a local store's sales circular or visit a website that's running a sale. Choose two items that you'd love to buy for your family and write them on this chart. Then check out coupons, discount codes, and special offers to figure out your savings. Then add your state's sales tax to calculate the final cost.

Item to Buy	Initial Cost	Cost After Discount	Sales Tax Rate in Your State	Final Price (Cost After Discount and Tax)
			%	
			%	

**Take It Further:** Your family can learn even more about money by working together to make a plan to save up so your child can purchase their favorite item. Ask your child:

How much can you save each week? \_\_\_\_\_

How many weeks will it take to save the total amount you need? \_\_\_\_\_

Do other stores offer a better buy for your item? (Tip: Comparison shopping can help you save money!)

\_\_\_\_\_



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# Money Doesn't Grow on Trees!

Hey, families! Want to help your kids grasp what it really costs to run your household each month? Try these conversation starters.

**Start** by pulling out some receipts and bill statements from the last month (or a few months) if you have them handy.

**Discuss** the expenses your family pays for each month. Explain that:

- Certain bills come no matter what, and you know what they cost in advance—like rent or internet.
- Other costs can change from month to month (groceries, heating bill).
- Sometimes, there's an unexpected expense, like if the fridge breaks and you have to buy a new one.



Fill out this table together:

Expenses That Stay the Same Every Month Examples: Rent, internet, mortgage		Variable Expenses Examples: Electricity, repairs, movie tickets	
Type	Amount	Type	Amount This Month

**Now challenge your child** to answer this question: After looking at our family's expenses, about how much can \$20 buy? \$50? \$100?



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