

Unit Price Detective

Mission: Is the big package ALWAYS the better deal? Split prices into equal parts to find the cost of one item, then decide which package to buy.

Big question: How can dividing a decimal price find the better buy?

★ Warm-up: Would you rather?

Choose and explain.

2 cookies for \$1.00 or 5 cookies for \$2.00? ✓ **5 for \$2.00: 40¢ each vs 50¢ each.**

Is a bigger package always cheaper per item? ✓ **No: you have to check the unit price.**

Key vocabulary

Unit price	The price of one item or one unit.
Divide	Split into equal groups.
Better buy	The choice with the lower unit price.
Bar model	A rectangle split into parts to show a problem.

1 Box 1

Buy the better deal

In the simulator: Buy the better juice deal.

What did you notice?

2 Box 2

Granola bars

In the simulator: Find both unit prices and buy the better granola deal.

What is the unit price of the better deal?

Answer: _____ \$ per bar ✓ **0.65**

Show your thinking:

3 Box 3

Predict: pencils

PREDICTION Pencils: 5-pack for \$1.75 or 12-pack for \$4.80. Which will be the better buy?

☐ The 12-pack (bigger is always better) ☐ The 5-pack ☐ They are the same

Check the pencils

In the simulator: Find both unit prices and buy the better pencil deal.

You predicted: _____. What did you find?

☐ The smaller 5-pack was cheaper per pencil (\$0.35 vs \$0.40) ☐ The 12-pack was cheaper ☐ Same price

✓ **The smaller 5-pack was cheaper per pencil (\$0.35 vs \$0.40)**

4 Box 4

Strategy check

Why does Rosa's strategy work?

- ☐ Changing dollars to cents makes a whole-number division with the same value ☐ It doesn't work
☐ She guessed

✓ **Changing dollars to cents makes a whole-number division with the same value**

5 Box 5

Legend: new deal 🏆 Legend only

A 15-pack of pencils costs \$5.40. What is the unit price?

Answer: _____ \$ ✓ **0.36**

Show your thinking:

6 Box 6

Shopper tip

Write a tip for shoppers explaining how to find the better buy. Use an example with numbers.

Look for: Explains finding the price of one; Explains comparing; a number from the simulator



Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How can dividing a decimal price find the better buy?

Look for: The unit price is the cost of ONE item: divide the price by the number of items. A bar model split into equal parts shows the division. Bigger packages are often cheaper per item, but not always, so compare unit prices.

Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
🗹 Explorer	156-E
🔍 Investigator	1HW-I
🏆 Legend	109-L



Watch for these misconceptions

- "Longer decimals are bigger." 0.45 is less than 0.5.
- "Line up the digits on the right when adding." Line up the decimal points.
- "Multiplying always gives a bigger answer." Multiplying by a decimal less than 1 gives a smaller answer.