

Financial Foundations



Making Change

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The Basics

The Basics:

Whenever you purchase an item or group of items, and pay with cash, you will probably receive change. People often receive incorrect change and may not even realize it. In order to become a confident consumer, it is important to understand how to mentally calculate the change that you should receive. There are several ways to do this. One method of calculating change is explained here.

First, add the number of dollars to the purchase price that are required to equal one dollar less than the amount you give to the cashier. Then, calculate the number of cents that must be added to the cents of the purchase price to make the final dollar. Finally, add these two amounts together.

For example, let's say you go to the supermarket and spend \$12.43. You give the cashier a \$20 bill. In order to calculate your change figure out how many dollars you would add to \$12 to get one less than \$20, or \$19. The answer is \$7. Then calculate the number of cents that need to be added to 43 cents to make the final dollar. The answer is 57 cents. Therefore, the change that you will receive from a \$20 bill, when you spend \$12.43, is \$7.57.

Purchase Price	Size Bill Paid With	Dollars To Add	Cents To Add	Change Received
\$8.71	\$10.00	1	29	\$1.29
\$14.26	\$20.00			
\$3.59	\$10.00			
\$17.38	\$20.00			



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Changing Speed (1 of 2)

For each purchase price below determine the change that should be received.

<u>Purchase Price</u>	<u>Size Bill</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Purchase Price</u>	<u>Size Bill</u>	<u>Change</u>
1. \$7.18	\$10	_____	11. \$6.09	\$10	_____
2. \$5.42	\$20	_____	12. \$18.63	\$20	_____
3. \$16.89	\$20	_____	13. \$2.48	\$5	_____
4. \$1.24	\$5	_____	14. \$15.22	\$20	_____
5. \$12.91	\$20	_____	15. \$18.97	\$20	_____
6. \$9.56	\$20	_____	16. \$0.19	\$10	_____
7. \$0.72	\$1	_____	17. \$8.76	\$10	_____
8. \$14.14	\$20	_____	18. \$3.82	\$20	_____
9. \$8.51	\$10	_____	19. \$11.11	\$20	_____
10. \$3.37	\$5	_____	20. \$9.21	\$10	_____

Bonus Buy: \$873.56 \$1,000 _____



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Teacher Tips

Financial Foundations Curriculum: Financial Foundations is a set of lessons designed to promote financial literacy within the context of the mathematics curriculum. The lessons are designed to be used individually or as part of an overall financial literacy program. Lessons focus on some of the key topics related to the earning, saving, spending, investing, and giving of money.

Lesson Description: Making Change is a lesson designed to teach students how to mentally compute the correct change that should be returned after a purchase. It explains how to compute change mentally and includes two speed drills (called “Changing Speed”) to reinforce this concept.

Math Content: Mental Math, Decimals, Money

Time Required: Part of 1 class period or
1 homework assignment

Tipping includes:

- * 1 Making Change basics worksheet and 1 Making Change basics answer key
- * 2 Making Change speed drills and 2 Making Change speed drill answer keys
- * 1 Making Change Teacher Tips page

Materials Needed: None

Suggested Grade Level: 5th - 8th

Teacher Testimonial:

Teaching students mathematics in a practical context, such as calculating the correct change expected after a purchase, will increase the financial literacy and life skills of students. Student number sense will also increase as they mentally calculate the correct change. We have all had experiences with employees incorrectly returning change to us. IT PAYS to be able to calculate correct change mentally!

Teacher Tips:

- * Review and discuss the Making Change basics page with students.
- * Use one or both of the speed drills to complete your lesson. Award speed prizes if you want.
- * Make the lesson relevant to students by discussing their experiences in receiving change.
Have they ever gotten too little back? Too much back?
- * There is more than one way to compute change. Discuss others ways as needed.

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