1.2: Unit Price-Notes

Groceries, as well as other products, are often available in a variety of sizes. One way you can make sure you get the best possible price for a product is by calculating its unit price.

**Unit Price:** The cost of one unit of a product expressed as cost per unit. To calculate the unit price, divide the cost of the product by the number of units.

\[
\times \text{ any number divided by itself } = 1
\]

Sally bought 12 doughnuts for $4.25. Calculate the unit price of one donut?

(cost ÷ Number of units = unit price)

\[
\frac{\$4.25}{12 \text{ doughnuts}} = 0.35416666
\]

Always $ first.

Round to the nearest cent. Remember, the answer should have two decimal places.

= $0.35/doughnut

**Examples**

1. A six pack of Pepsi cost $2.75. What is the unit price of 1 can of Pepsi?

\[
\frac{\$2.75}{6} = 0.4583
\]

= $0.46/can

2. A case of 36 oranges costs $8.95. How much does it cost for 1 orange?

\[
\frac{\$8.95}{36} = \$0.248
\]

= $0.25/orange

3. Billy buys 8 slurpee’s for $9.87. What is the cost for one slurpee?

\[
\frac{\$9.87}{8} = 1.2337
\]

= 1.23/3 slurpee
Comparing Different Quantities

Sometimes as shoppers we need to compare two items and find out which one is a better buy. To compare the unit price of two items, both prices have to be in the same units and the quantities must be in the same units.

✓ Prices have to be in the same unit -> All in Canadian dollars or all in American dollars.
✓ Both quantities must be in the same unit -> All in grams or all in kilograms

Example

Kookoo Cola is sold in two different sizes. The smaller size sells for $1.29 for 550 mL while the larger size sells for $1.79 for 1 L. Which is a better buy?

✓ Both quantities are also in different units -> millilitre (mL) and litres (L)
✓ In order to figure out which is a better buy, find out the price per L

\[
1000 \text{ mL} = 1 \text{ L}
\]

\[
\frac{\$1.79}{L} \quad \text{vs} \quad \frac{\$1.29}{550 \text{ mL}}
\]

better buy

(assuming you really need
1 litre of soda)

\[
\frac{550 \text{ mL}}{1000 \text{ mL}} = 0.55 \text{ L}
\]

\[
\frac{\$1.29}{0.55 \text{ L}} = \frac{\$2.35}{L}
\]