MATHEMATICS · KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3

Making change

Difficulty level: Easy

Mathematics: Kindergarten to Grade 3

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Overview of the concept

This is how you work out what change you should get back at a shop, by subtracting what you owe from what you handed over. Every cash purchase ends with this one subtraction, and getting it right means you never walk away short changed. You use it at any shop, market, or till, and it is also the quick check that tells you whether the cashier gave you the right amount back.



Rule

Change = amount paid - cost.

Subtract what the item costs from what you handed over, and what is left is the change.

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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Pay 5 dollars for a 3-dollar item. What change?

SOLUTION

Start with what you paid: 5 dollars.

Subtract the cost: 5 - 3 = 2

So the change is 2 dollars.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Pay 10 dollars for a 7-dollar 50-cent item. What change?

SOLUTION

Start with what you paid: 10 dollars.

Subtract the cost: 10 dollars - 7 dollars 50 cents = 2 dollars 50 cents

So the change is 2 dollars 50 cents.

Practice questions

1 A toy costs 6 dollars. You pay with a 10 dollar bill. How much change do you get? Write the change in dollars.

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2 You buy a book for $15 and a pen for $4. You pay with a $20 bill. How much change do you get? Write the change in dollars.

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3 A sandwich costs 2 dollars 25 cents. You pay with a 5 dollar bill. The clerk counts your change back starting from the price. How much change do you get? Write the change in dollars and cents.

A 2 dollars 25 cents

B 2 dollars 75 cents

C 3 dollars 75 cents

D 2 dollars 50 cents

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4 An eraser costs 75 cents. You pay with a loonie. Your change is one coin. Which coin is it?

- A A dime
- B A nickel
- C A quarter
- D A loonie

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5 You pay for a 32 dollar game with a 50 dollar bill. You get a 10 dollar bill, a 5 dollar bill, a toonie and a loonie back. Is that the right change? Write yes or no.

- A Yes
- B No

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6 You buy 3 muffins at $2 each. You pay with a $10 bill. How much change do you get?

- A $4
- B $6
- C $3
- D $5

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7 Which coins make 75 cents with the fewest coins?

- A 3 quarters
- B 7 dimes and a nickel
- C 2 quarters, 2 dimes and a nickel
- D 15 nickels

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8 You get a quarter back as change from a $5 bill. How much did the item cost?

- A $4.25
- B $4.75
- C $4.50
- D $5.25

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9 The clerk counts your change back from $64: $1 makes $65, $5 makes $70, $10 makes $80, $20 makes $100. How much change did you get? Write the change in dollars.

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10 **A notebook costs 1 dollar 20 cents. You pay with a toonie. How much change do you get, in cents? Write the change in cents.**

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ANSWER KEY

1. 4 dollars

2. 1 dollar

3. 2 dollars 75 cents

4. A quarter

5. Yes

6. $4

7. 3 quarters

8. $4.75

9. 36 dollars

10. 80 cents

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