

Handout 01.16: Unit Price Practice

Name: _____ Date: _____ Partner: _____

All prices on this sheet are realistic Long Island supermarket prices for September 2026. Every one is marked *[update from this week's circular]*; your teacher may write the real price on the board.

The rule

Unit price = price divided by quantity.

Write the dollar sign on every unit price answer. If there is no dollar sign, you divided the wrong way.

The units have to match before you compare. **1 pound (lb) = 16 ounces (oz)**. To change pounds to ounces, multiply by 16.

Worked example: a 24 oz jar of sauce costs \$2.29. \$2.29 divided by 24 = \$0.095 per oz.

Part A: Find the unit price (round to three decimal places)

#	Item	Price	Quantity	Unit price (show your division)
1	Store-brand pasta <i>[update from this week's circular]</i>	\$1.29	16 oz	\$_____ per oz
2	Marinara sauce, jar <i>[update from this week's circular]</i>	\$2.29	24 oz	\$_____ per oz
3	Shredded cheese, bag <i>[update from this week's circular]</i>	\$2.49	8 oz	\$_____ per oz
4	Frozen corn, bag <i>[update from this week's circular]</i>	\$1.79	12 oz	\$_____ per oz
5	Deli half rotisserie chicken <i>[update from this week's circular]</i>	\$4.99	1 lb 4 oz = _____ oz	\$_____ per oz

	<i>from this week's circular]</i>			
6	Rice, bag <i>[update from this week's circular]</i>	\$2.79	2 lb = ____ oz	\$____ per oz

Part B: Which is the better buy per ounce? Circle it and show why.

#	Option 1	Option 2	Unit price 1	Unit price 2	Better buy
1	Marinara, 24 oz jar, \$2.29	Marinara, 45 oz jar, \$3.79	\$____ per oz	\$____ per oz	24 oz / 45 oz
2	Name-brand pasta, 12 oz box, \$1.49	Store-brand pasta, 16 oz box, \$1.29	\$____ per oz	\$____ per oz	name / store
3	Shredded cheese, 8 oz bag, \$2.49	Shredded cheese, 2 lb bag, \$7.99	\$____ per oz	\$____ per oz	8 oz / 2 lb

Part C: Sales tax on non-food items

Copy the rule from the board:

In New York, most grocery food is ____ taxed. Non-food items (foil, paper plates, cups, soap) and candy, soda, and prepared hot food ____ taxed. The rate in our county is about ____ percent. *[Sal: confirm the local rate]*

Circle the items that get taxed at the register: a bag of rice, a roll of foil, a two-liter soda, paper plates, a loaf of bread, a candy bar.

A roll of foil costs \$3.49. The tax at 8.625 percent is \$____. The total for the foil is \$____.

Part D: The bulk trap

A 10 lb bag of potatoes costs \$5.99. A 3 lb bag costs \$2.99.

Unit price of the 10 lb bag: \$____ per lb. Unit price of the 3 lb bag: \$____ per lb. Cheaper per pound: ____.

This family eats potatoes about twice a month, about 2 pounds each time. Potatoes keep for two to three weeks in a cool, dark place, and this family keeps them in a warm kitchen cabinet.

Which bag should this family buy? ____

Why? Use the sentence starter: "The big bag is cheaper per _____, but this family should buy the _____ because _____."



Part E: When cheaper is not better (copy the list from the debrief)

Cheaper per unit is the wrong buy when:











One of my own from home: _____

Teacher key

Part A: 1. \$0.081 per oz. 2. \$0.095 per oz. 3. \$0.311 per oz. 4. \$0.149 per oz. 5. 20 oz; \$0.250 per oz. 6. 32 oz; \$0.087 per oz. Accept answers within \$0.002.

Part B: 1. \$0.095 vs \$0.084; the 45 oz jar. 2. \$0.124 vs \$0.081; store brand. 3. \$0.311 vs \$0.250; the 2 lb bag (then ask: can the family use 2 lb of cheese before it molds? That is Part D's question).

Part C: most grocery food is not taxed; non-food items, candy, soda, and prepared hot food are taxed; about 8.625 percent in Suffolk and Nassau counties [*Sal: confirm*]. Taxed: foil, soda, paper plates, candy bar. Not taxed: rice, bread. Foil tax: \$3.49 times 0.08625 = \$0.30 (rounded). Total \$3.79.

Part D: 10 lb bag: \$0.599 per lb. 3 lb bag: \$0.997 per lb. Cheaper per pound: the 10 lb bag. The family should buy the 3 lb bag: they use about 4 lb a month, the potatoes will sprout or rot in a warm cabinet before they use 10 lb, and the waste costs more than the savings. Accept the 10 lb bag only with a fix (a cool, dark place to store them and a plan to use them within three weeks).

Part E (from the debrief): it will spoil before you use it; there is no room to store it; the family will not eat that much; a food rule or allergy rules it out; you cannot afford the bigger total today even though it is cheaper per ounce.