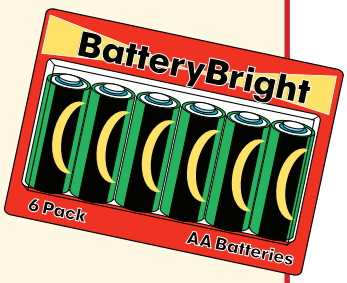
# More BANG for your buck

Smart shoppers always look for the lowest price for the items they want to purchase. Most supermarkets have many different brands that sell similar products. You might like a certain brand, or you might think that it doesn't matter which one you buy; they're all the same! So, how do you know which one to buy, especially when they all come in packages with different amounts? Which one is the best deal for your money?

You can save a lot of money when you are able to accurately compare the price per item. To find the price per item, or "per count," divide the total amount by the number of items in the package. This will ultimately help you find the best price when you shop. The price per count is also called the item's "unit cost."


**Example:**




Crystal is going on a camping trip this weekend. She needs to buy at least two AA batteries for her flashlight. ExtremeBattery batteries come in packages of 4 batteries that cost $4.99 each. BatteryBright sells its batteries in a pack of 6 for $5.79. Which is the better deal?

**Step 1: Determine the cost of each ExtremeBattery battery by dividing the price by the total number of batteries per package. Remember to always round final answers up to the nearest cent!**

$4.99 ÷ 4 = $1.25 per battery

**Step 2: Determine the cost of each BatteryBright battery in the same way.**

$5.79 ÷ 6 = $0.97 per battery

**Step 3: Compare the price per battery. The BatteryBright battery has a lower price per battery.**

Sometimes, even when you have to pay more up front, you get a better deal. You, the consumer, have to decide if paying more at the time of purchase is worth it to you in the end. With a product like batteries that last a long time, it might be better for you to purchase more of them at a lower price than spending less in the moment of purchase.

Crystal wants to get the best price on the other items she needs for her camping trip. To help her make the best choices for her needs, determine the unit cost of each brand and decide which brand gives her the best value for her money. Round to the nearest cent.

| | |
|---|---|
| One 96 oz. bag of Yummie marshmallows for $3.99<br>_____ | One 72 oz. bag of Puffy marshmallows for $3.50<br>_____ |
| A 6-pack of soda for $4.59<br>_____ | A 12-pack of soda for $8.00<br>_____ |
| A 4-pack of SpeedyLight boxes of matches for $2.99<br>_____ | A 6-pack of MagicMatch boxes of matches for $5.00<br>_____ |
| One dozen hot dogs for $4.49<br>_____ | An 8-pack of hot dogs for $3.35<br>_____ |

If Crystal buys one of each of the four product types above, each at the best value for her money, what will be the total cost of all four items?

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