

THE BARATELLI INSTITUTE · MENTORING AT
SCALE

Money *Smarts*.

Percents, interest, budgets, and the magic of compounding.

Aligns to: percents and decimal operations (Grade 5 math); interest, budgeting, earning, and compounding (personal finance).

Grade 5 · Ages 10–11

1. Percent of Money
2. Sales Tax and Tips
3. Simple Interest
4. Make a Monthly Budget
5. Smart Shopping
6. Opportunity Cost
7. Saving for a Goal
8. Earning a Paycheck
9. Watch Your Money Grow

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How to use this packet

These reach the real-world math of money: percents, tax and tips, interest, a full budget, and compounding. A worked example opens the percent page.

1. Percent of Money	Finding a percent.
2. Sales Tax and Tips	Adding percents to a bill.
3. Simple Interest	Interest formula.
4. Make a Monthly Budget	Income minus expenses.
5. Smart Shopping	Unit price & trade-offs.
6. Opportunity Cost	Trade-offs in choices.
7. Saving for a Goal	Goals and division.
8. Earning a Paycheck	Gross vs. net pay.
9. Watch Your Money Grow	Compounding.

Quick tips. Print in black-and-white, single-sided. Each sheet takes about 10–15 minutes. The **answer key with concept notes** is at the back. For the youngest grades, read the directions aloud.

Learn it first — read the story

Percents in Real Life



A **percent** is a part out of 100. To find one, turn it into a decimal and multiply: 10% of \$50 = \$5. Stores add **sales tax** (a percent) at the register, and you leave a **tip** (15–20%) for good service. Banks pay **interest** for saving: \$200 at 5% for a year earns \$10.

WORDS TO KNOW

Percent — a part out of 100

Sales tax / tip — a percent added on

Interest — money the bank pays you to save

1. Percent of Money

A percent is part of 100. Find each amount.

Example — 10% of \$50 = \$5 (move the dot one place left).

a) 10% of \$40 =

b) 25% of \$80 =

c) A \$50 jacket is 20% off. You save and pay

2. Sales Tax and Tips

Add the extra amount to the bill.

a) A \$20 meal + 15% tip. Tip = Total =

b) A \$50 purchase + 8% sales tax. Tax = Total =

3. Simple Interest

Interest is money the bank pays you for saving. Interest = Money \times Rate \times Years.

a) \$200 at 5% for 1 year. Interest =

b) \$1,000 at 4% for 1 year. Interest =

c) \$500 at 3% for 2 years. Interest =

Learn it first — read the story

Budgeting and Smart Choices



A **budget** tracks money in (income) and money out (expenses); what's left, you save. Smart shoppers compare the **unit price** to spend less. And every choice has an **opportunity cost** — buying one thing means giving up another.

WORDS TO KNOW

Budget — income minus expenses; the rest you save

Unit price — the cost of one, to compare deals

Opportunity cost — what you give up when you choose

Name: _____

Date: _____

4. Make a Monthly Budget

Income comes in; expenses go out. Fill it in and find what is left to save.

Money In	
Allowance	\$20
Chores / earnings	\$30
Total in	

Money Out	
Phone / games	\$15
Snacks / fun	\$10
Total out	

Left to save (in - out) =

5. Smart Shopping

Find the unit price, then choose.

a) Cereal: 12 oz for \$3.00 → _____ /oz. 20 oz for \$4.40 → _____ /oz.

Better: _____

b) Why might someone still buy the smaller, pricier one?

6. Opportunity Cost

When you spend on one thing, you give up another — the “opportunity cost.”

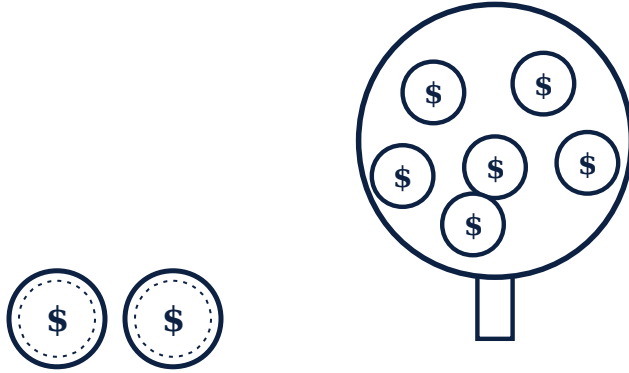
You have \$30. You can buy a video game (\$30) OR a book (\$15) and save \$15.

a) If you buy the game, what do you give up?

b) Which would you choose, and why?

Learn it first — read the story

Earning and Growing



To reach a **goal**, divide its cost by what you save each month. A **paycheck** shows what you earn (gross) and what you take home after deductions (net). And with **compounding**, saved money grows on its bigger and bigger base — \$1,000 left to grow can become tens of thousands by the time you retire.

WORDS TO KNOW

Goal — $\text{cost} \div \text{monthly savings} = \text{months to get there}$

Gross vs. net — pay before vs. after deductions

Compounding — growth that builds on itself

Name: _____

Date: _____

7. Saving for a Goal

Your goal is a \$300 bike. You save \$25 each month.

a) After 5 months you have saved

b) How many months to reach \$300?

c) If you saved \$50 a month, how many months?

8. Earning a Paycheck

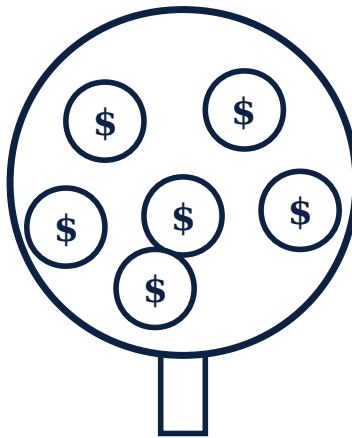
A paycheck shows what you earn (gross) and what you take home after deductions (net).

a) You earn \$12/hour and work 10 hours. Gross pay =

b) \$18 is taken out for taxes. Take-home (net) pay =

9. Watch Your Money Grow

Compound growth means your money earns, and then the bigger amount earns more. Fill in the pattern.



At birth	~ age 10	~ age 20	~ age 40	~ age 65
\$1,000	\$2,000	\$4,000		

The big idea: if money roughly doubles every 10 years, \$1,000 invested at birth can become around \$16,000–\$80,000 by retirement — without adding a dollar. Starting young is a superpower, because money has the most time to grow. This is exactly how investing works: a small start becomes a large finish.

Teacher's Answer Key & Concept Notes

1. Percent of Money — a) \$4 b) \$20 c) save \$10, pay \$40.

Differentiate: Support: find 10% first, then build up. Challenge: find 15% of \$40.

2. Sales Tax and Tips — a) tip \$3, total \$23. b) tax \$4, total \$54.

Differentiate: Support: 10% then half for 15%. Challenge: a 20% tip on \$35.

3. Simple Interest — a) \$10 b) \$40 c) \$30.

Differentiate: Support: write the formula each time. Challenge: interest on \$500 at 3% for 4 years.

4. Make a Monthly Budget — In \$50, out \$25, save \$25.

Differentiate: Support: total each column first. Challenge: add a new expense and re-solve.

5. Smart Shopping — a) \$0.25/oz vs \$0.22/oz → 20 oz. b) less money now, less waste.

Differentiate: Support: divide together. Challenge: at what price would 12 oz win?

6. Opportunity Cost — a) the book and \$15. b) open.

Differentiate: Support: list both options. Challenge: give a real example from your life.

7. Saving for a Goal — a) \$125 b) 12 months c) 6 months.

Differentiate: Support: skip-count by 25. Challenge: months to save \$300 at \$40/month?

8. Earning a Paycheck — a) \$120 gross b) \$102 net.

Differentiate: Support: gross first. Challenge: what % was taken out?

9. Watch Your Money Grow — \$1,000, \$2,000, \$4,000, \$8,000, \$16,000.

Differentiate: Support: double together. Challenge: estimate with money added each year.

Free to copy for classroom use. Standards references are general (Common Core mathematics; national personal-finance education standards) — verify specific alignment before publishing. © 2026 The Baratelli Institute.