



Often things are sold in different-sized packs for different prices. It is sometimes hard to see which gives the best value for money. This activity shows how to work out which is the 'best buy'.

Student information sheet

Files



89 pence each



Special offer: 5 for £4

Think about

How much does each file cost if you use the special offer?

Which is the best buy – single files or the special offer?

Can you think of any reasons why someone might not use the special offer?

Rewritable CDs



5-pack, 90 minutes each, £5.50

10-pack, 80 minutes each, £7.95

12-pack, 90 minutes each, £9.99

Think about

How can you work out which pack is the best buy?

Why might someone not choose the best buy?

Cola



**Large bottle
(3 litres)
£2.80**



**Regular bottle
(1.5 litres)
£1.50**



**6-pack cans
(330 ml each)
£1.99**



**1 can
(330 ml)
50 p**

Think about

How can you work out which of these is the best buy?

Why might you not choose the best buy?

Try these

CDs

Look at the prices on the information sheet. A 5-pack of CDs costs £5.50.



Think about

- a How many minutes do you get for £5.50?
- b Roughly how many minutes is this for each pound?
- c Work this out accurately on your calculator like this: $450 \text{ minutes} \div 5.50 \text{ (£)}$
The answer is 81.8 (to 1 decimal place). So each pound buys 81.8 minutes of CD space.
(This has been written in the table below.)
- d Work out how many minutes you get for each pound in the other packs.
Put the answers in the table.

Pack	Number of discs	Length of each disc in mins	Total length of discs in mins	Price in £	How many mins of disc per £?	Cost in pence of 1 min of disc
1	5	90	450	£5.50	81.8 mins/£	1.22 p/min
2	10	80				
3	12	90				

- e Which pack is the best buy?
- f Work out the cost per minute of space in the 5-pack like this: $550 \text{ (pence)} \div 450 \text{ (minutes)}$
The answer is 1.22 pence/min to 2 decimal places. So each minute costs 1.22 pence.
(This has been written in the table.)
- g Work out the cost per minute of the other packs.
Put the answers in the table and compare them.
- h Which pack does this suggest is the best buy?
- i Why might someone choose a different pack?

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Cola

Look at the prices on the information sheet.

- a Fill in the table to show the volumes and prices of cola.
Remember that 1000 ml = 1 litre, so 330 ml = 0.33 litres.
- b Work out the values for the last two columns.
Use a calculator (or a spreadsheet if you wish).



	Total volume of cola in litres	Price in £	How many litres of cola per £? (litres/£)	Cost in £ of 1 litre of cola (£/litre)
Large				
Regular				
6-pack				
Can				

- c Which is the best buy?

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- d Why?

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- e Why might you choose one of the others?

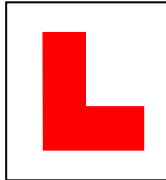
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More to try

In each of these find the best buy.
Show all your working and explain your answer.
Also give a reason why someone might not choose the best buy.

1 Driving lessons



Lessons – 1 hour each

£25 per lesson
Special offer
£270 for 12 lessons

2 File paper



A4 pads

80 pages for 99 p
160 pages for £1.69
200 pages for £1.99

3 Top-up phone card



Top-up phone card

300 texts for £5.00
750 texts for £8.00
1000 texts for £12.50

4 Shampoo



Shampoo

200 ml £2.19
300 ml £2.99
400 ml £3.59

5 Chocolate bars



Chocolate bars

1 bar 35 pence
Pack of 5 £1.20
Special offer
Buy 2 bars, get another free

6 Energy drink



Energy drinks

75 ml	89 pence
200 ml	£1.99
400 ml	£3.99

7 Fruit juice



Juice

Pack of 4, 1-litre cartons	£2.35
A single 1-litre carton	73 pence
Pack of 3, 220 ml cartons	75 pence

8 Toothpaste



Toothpaste

50 ml tube	84 pence
75 ml tube	£1.19
Special offer	
Buy a 50 ml tube, get another for half price	

9 Crisps



Crisps

Single 34.5 gram packets	cost 40 pence each
150 gram packets	cost £1.10 pence each
6-pack of 31 gram packets	costs £1.50
10-pack of 25 gram packets	costs £1.99
12-pack of 24 gram packets	costs £2.25

At the end of the activity

Have you bought anything recently where you had to choose which size (or pack) to buy?

How did you decide which one to buy?

Did you choose the 'best buy'? If not, why not?