



Counting Coins

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Thank you for downloading this Financial Literacy Feature. We hope the information and activities offered will be helpful in strengthening your family's financial literacy skills.

U.S. coins can be confusing for children. Dimes are smaller than nickels, but they are worth more. Pennies are a different color. On most U.S. coins, the value is not even printed on the coin in numerals, only words. A quarter, for example, says Quarter Dollar instead of 25 cents. If children can't read, the words on a coin won't help them identify its value.

One way to help children become better shoppers and money managers is to make sure they are familiar with the coins they use every day. You can do this at home by having your children identify and sort the coins they have in their piggy banks. Make a game of the coin sorting by placing a penny, a nickel, a dime, and a quarter in a row. Then, have your children close their eyes. Remove one of the coins and ask them to tell you which coin is missing. Switch roles, and let them remove a coin so you can name the missing one.

Read the following activity with your children and help them identify the different kinds of coins. Make sure they recognize the name of the coin and know how much it is worth.



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Activity

All coins have two sides: "heads" (obverse) and "tails" (reverse). On U.S. coins, the portraits are usually presidents, but not always. In 1979, Susan B. Anthony was the first woman to appear on a coin (images of the Statue of Liberty were on earlier coins), followed by Sacagawea in 2000. The following chart lists the values of U.S. coins, as well as the names of those whose faces are imprinted on the "heads" side.

Penny	1 cent	Abraham Lincoln
Nickel	5 cents	Thomas Jefferson
Dime	10 cents	Franklin Delano Roosevelt
Quarter	25 cents	George Washington
Half Dollar	50 cents	John F. Kennedy
Dollar	100 cents	Dwight Eisenhower, Susan B. Anthony, Sacagawea

Directions: If you add the value amounts of the following groups of coins, how much money will you have?

1. 3 Susan B. Anthony
 1 John F. Kennedy
 10 Abraham Lincoln
 Equal: _____

2. 5 Dwight Eisenhower
 6 Franklin D. Roosevelt
 6 Abraham Lincoln
 Equal: _____

3. 4 Sacagawea
 4 George Washington
 10 Thomas Jefferson
 3 Abraham Lincoln
 Equal: _____

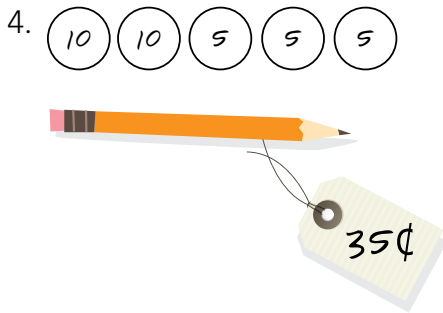
Directions: Cut out the coin images and glue them in the correct boxes.

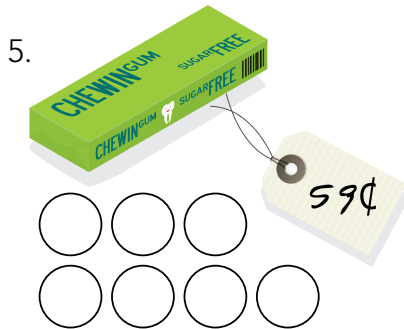


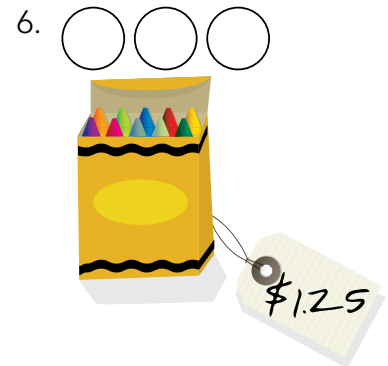
1¢	5¢	10¢
25¢	50¢	100¢

Directions: Coins can be combined in different ways to pay for things. For example, you can buy a 79-cent candy bar with 3 quarters and 4 pennies, or 7 dimes and 9 pennies, or many other combinations of coins.

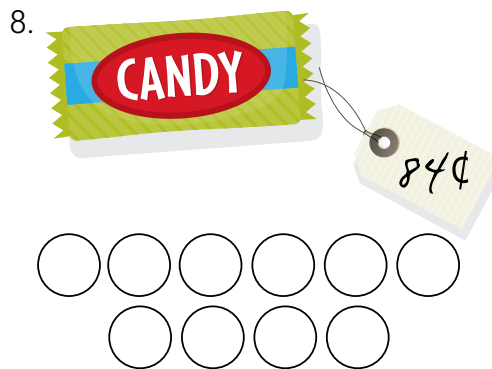
Next to each picture are circles that represent a certain number of coins. Put the correct value on each coin so that they add up to the price of each item. The first one is completed for you.

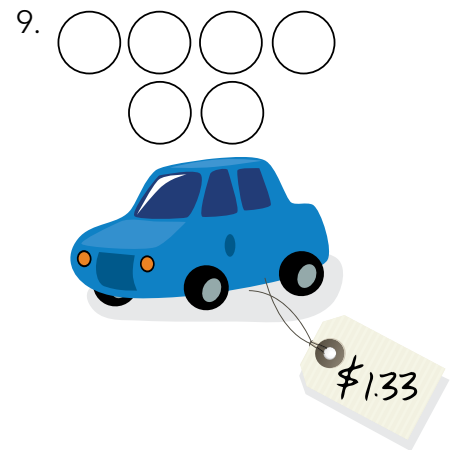
4. 

5. 

6. 

7. 

8. 

9. 

Answers: 1. \$3.60; 2. \$5.66; 3. \$5.53; 4. 10, 10, 5, 5, 5; 5. 50, 25, 5, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1; 6. 50, 50, 25; 7. 100, 100, 100, 100, 25; 8. 25, 25, 25, 25, 1, 1; 9. 100, 25, 5, 1, 1, 1.

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