

If you want to save money when shopping for food, it's a good idea to compare prices. While it's easy to compare prices for identical items, it's not so easy to compare prices when the same item comes in different quantities.

Which is cheaper:

50g of salt and vinegar chips for 80¢ or 100g for \$1.50?

Clearly, the larger packet is better value. When comparing prices, it is easier when one size is a multiple of the other, the 100 gram packet of chips is twice the size of the 50 gram packet.

When this is not the case, you need to find the *unit price* to compare prices. Finding the unit price means finding the price you would pay for 1 unit of the goods.

For example, compare:

2 litres milk \$2.20

1.25 litres milk \$1.50

Unit price = price for 1 litre $\frac{\text{cost (in cents)}}{\text{quantity (in litres)}}$

2 litres milk:

Unit price = price for 1 litre $\frac{220}{2}$
= 110¢
= \$1.10

1.25 litres milk:

Unit price = price for 1 litre $\frac{150}{1.25}$
= 120¢
= \$1.20

1. DIVIDE the price by the quantity to get the unit price for the items below:

a) 2 litres of cordial for \$3.40

b) 3 kg of potatoes for \$4.95

c) 30 metres of cling wrap for \$2.99



2. CALCULATE the unit price to identify which is the cheaper product.

Item	Price	Unit price	Best buy
Sweet spring mineral water 1 litre	\$2.65		
Flow mineral water 1.5 litre	\$3.50		
Heidi's Mountain muesli 750g	\$3.22		
Fodos muesli 500g	\$1.90		
Delicious yoghurt 250g	\$1.20		
Organic yoghurt 200g	\$1.00		

3. Comparing prices can be difficult when the quality or features of the products also vary. DISCUSS: How would you go about comparing the cost of two:

- second-hand cars
- computer packages
- printed T-shirts?

