

Working with Percents

The word **percent** means **in a hundred**. So **fifty percent** means **fifty in a hundred**. If you start the week with a hundred dollars and by Friday you've spent fifty, you have spent half. So **fifty percent** is another way of saying **a half**.

Twenty-five percent means **twenty-five in a hundred**. How many twenty-five cent pieces are there in a hundred cents? In other words, how many quarters in a dollar? Four. So **25%** is another way of saying **a quarter**.



	Shortcuts:	Example
50% off	Divide the original price by 2. Your answer is the sale price.	Hallowe'en masks were \$6. Now they're 50% off. $6 \div 2 = 3$ <u>Sale price: \$3</u>
30% off	Divide the original price by 3. Subtract your answer from the original price. Your second answer is the sale price. (This method is approximate .)	Kids' boots were \$30. Now they're 30% off. $30 \div 3 = 10$ $30 - 10 = 20$ <u>Sale price: \$20</u>
25% off	Divide the original price by 4. Subtract your answer from the original price. Your second answer is the sale price.	Maple syrup was \$8. Now it's 25% off. $\$8 \div 4 = 2$ $8 - 2 = 6$ <u>Sale price: \$6</u>
10% off	Divide the original price by 10. Subtract your answer from the original price. Your second answer is the sale price.	Diapers were \$10. Now they're 10% off. $10 \div 10 = 1$ $10 - 1 = 9$ <u>Sale price: \$9</u>

In the examples you just read, the prices are rounded off to make them easier to calculate in your head. When you are out shopping and your hands are full with bags and little hands, you will not be able to stop and work out the math on paper or with a calculator. The skill of estimating and rounding off numbers will come in handy.

estimate

When you estimate an answer, you do a rough calculation, often in your head. The answer may not be accurate but it is close enough.

In the three flyer examples below, round off the regular prices to the nearest dollar, then work out the sale price.

1. Find the sale price of the boys' and girls' sleepwear.

2. Find the sale price of the girls' Nevada jeans.

3. Find the sale price of the infants' sleepwear.



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