

Name _____

Figure Out the Sales Tax!

Find the sales tax on different items—then learn a quick mental math strategy for calculating percentages.



Roll a number cube and write the number in the sales tax percentage column. Roll the number cube again until you have filled the column. Use a calculator to find how much sales tax will be added, and the total cost.

Item	Item Cost	Sales Tax %	Sales Tax Amount	Total Cost
Video game	\$39.00			
Set of markers	\$11.00			
Skateboard	\$55.00			
Set of books	\$44.00			

Take it further. Write your answers on the lines below.

- 1 What is the amount of a 1% sales tax on the video game that costs \$39.00? _____
- 2 What is 1% of the \$11.00 markers? _____
- 3 What pattern do you observe? _____

TIPS

- **Use mental math** to quickly find 1% of a number: Move the decimal point two spaces to the left, which is equivalent to dividing the number by 100. Once you have 1%, you can double it to find 2%, etc.
- **To double-check** that you're moving the decimal in the correct direction, remember that you want to end up with a number that is smaller than the original number, since 1% is just a small amount of the whole.

- 4 **Final challenge:** Now that you can find a 1% and 2% sales tax, how can you use mental math to find 3%, 4%, 5%, and 6% tax?
