




Home Link Help: Counting Up

Grade 2, Home Link 3-8

Counting up to make change is one strategy for figuring out how much change is due in a shopping situation. In first grade, children learned the value of the U.S. coins, and in second grade, they build on this knowledge by counting with the coins in a real-life context. At this time of the year, children may not yet have developed procedures for performing subtraction on 2- and 3-digit numbers. Counting up to find the difference is one way many children successfully solve problems involving change.

Help with Home Link Problems

Your child may want to use a counting tool like a number line or number grid to help them count up to make change. Have them circle how much the item costs. Then have your child put a square around the amount they paid. Have them count up from the cost to the amount paid. Make sure they do NOT count their starting point as “1.” Instead, they should begin counting with the first “step” from their starting point. For more information about counting tools, see pages 6-8 of the My Reference Book. Encourage your child to count by 1s until they are comfortable counting by 5s (nickels), 10s (dimes) and 25s (quarters).

I buy:	It costs:	I pay with:	My change is:
A pencil	18 ¢		_____ ¢

Extra Practice Idea

Create a pretend store. Use coins to create a more realistic situation. Encourage your child to count by 5s, 10s, and 25s, not just by 1s.