Money and Making Change

Counting coins and bills is just adding by their values. Making change is subtraction — usually with a friendly "count up" from the price to the amount paid.

Coin / Bill	Value
Penny	\$0.01 (1¢)
Nickel	\$0.05 (5¢)
Dime	\$0.10 (10¢)
Quarter	\$0.25 (25¢)
Dollar bill	\$1.00 (100¢)

Key Concepts

1. Money values: penny 1¢, nickel 5¢, dime 10¢, quarter 25¢, dollar 100¢.

2. To count coins, group them by type and multiply by their value, then add.

3. For **making change**, the simplest method is to *count up* from the price to the amount paid. Use friendly jumps (to the nearest dime, quarter, dollar).

4. You can also just subtract: change = paid − price. Be careful to line up the decimal point.

Worked Examples

① You have 3 quarters, 1 dime, and 2 pennies. How much money is that?

Calculate each: 3 quarters $= 3 \times 25 = 75¢$. 1 dime $= 10¢$. 2 pennies $= 2¢$. Add: $75 + 10 + 2 = 87¢$.

Answer: $87¢$ (\$0.87)

② A toy costs \$3.45. You pay with a \$5 bill. What is the change?

Subtract: \$5.00 − \$3.45 = \$1.55. So the change is \$1.55. (Count up trick: \$3.45 + 5¢ = \$3.50, +50¢ = \$4.00, +\$1.00 = \$5.00. Total added: \$1.55.)

Answer: \$1.55

③ Count up from \$2.75 to \$3.00 to find the change.

From \$2.75, jump to \$3.00: that's 25 cents (\$2.75 → \$2.80 → \$3.00, or just see the gap is 25¢). So the change is 25¢ (\$0.25).

Answer: \$0.25

Practice Problems

Find the total or the change.

1. 2 quarters + 3 dimes = ?¢ _____
2. 4 dimes + 2 nickels = ?¢ _____
3. \$1.00 − \$0.65 = ? _____
4. \$5.00 − \$3.20 = ? _____
5. 1 quarter + 4 pennies = ?¢ _____
6. \$10.00 − \$7.50 = ? _____
7. 3 quarters + 1 nickel = ?¢ _____
8. \$2.00 − \$1.35 = ? _____
9. 5 dimes + 3 pennies = ?¢ _____
10. \$5.00 − \$4.18 = ? _____
11. 6 nickels + 4 pennies = ?¢ _____
12. \$20.00 − \$13.75 = ? _____

Study Tips

- ☞ Group coins by type and multiply. Adding $3 + 3 + 3 + 3 = 12$ quarters individually is slow; $4 \times 25 = 100$¢ is fast.
- ☞ To make change, count up from the price to the amount paid in friendly jumps. Most cashiers use this trick.
- ☞ Always line up the decimal point when subtracting dollar amounts. \$5.00 − \$3.45 should be written with the decimals aligned.

✍ Word Problems

1. Emma buys a notebook for \$2.35 and a pen for \$1.15. She pays with a \$5 bill. How much change does she get?

Answer: _____

2. Noah has 3 quarters, 2 dimes, and 1 nickel. Does he have enough to buy a snack that costs \$1.00?

Answer: _____

Answer Key — with Friendly Explanations

Practice Problems

1. $50 + 30 = 80¢$.

Answer: $80¢$

2. $40 + 10 = 50¢$.

Answer: $50¢$

3. $\$1.00 - \$0.65 = \$0.35$.

Answer: $\$0.35$

4. $\$5.00 - \$3.20 = \$1.80$.

Answer: $\$1.80$

5. $25 + 4 = 29¢$.

Answer: $29¢$

6. $\$10.00 - \$7.50 = \$2.50$.

Answer: $\$2.50$

7. $75 + 5 = 80¢$.

Answer: $80¢$

8. $\$2.00 - \$1.35 = \$0.65$.

Answer: $\$0.65$

9. $50 + 3 = 53¢$.

Answer: $53¢$

10. $\$5.00 - \$4.18 = \$0.82$.

Answer: $\$0.82$

11. $30 + 4 = 34¢$.

Answer: $34¢$

12. $\$20.00 - \$13.75 = \$6.25$.

Answer: $\$6.25$

Word Problems

1. $\$2.35 + \$1.15 = \$3.50$; $\$5.00 - \$3.50 = \$1.50$.

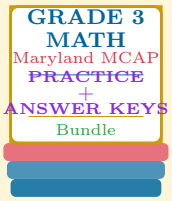
Answer: $\$1.50$

2. $75 + 20 + 5 = 100¢$. Exactly $\$1.00$.

Answer: *Yes*

Want a Complete Grade 3 Math Program?

Check Out Our Maryland MCAP Grade 3 Math Bundle!



Maryland MCAP Grade 3 Math Bundle

Practice tests, complete answer keys, and step-by-step explanations
Everything a third grader needs to feel ready!

Tests + Answer Keys One Bundle

Find it online:

https://www.effortlessmath.com/product/maryland-mcap-grade-3-math-made-ridiculously-simple/

Important: This bundle combines the practice and the explanations into one easy-to-print package designed for Grade 3 students. **Made for parents, teachers, and tutors who want everything in one place.**

Full Practice Tests

- ✓ Complete MCAP-style practice tests
- ✓ Mirrors the real exam format and difficulty
- ✓ Builds test-taking confidence
- ✓ Aligned with state Grade 3 math standards

Start with a full-length practice test!

Step-by-Step Answer Keys

- ✓ Every question worked out, not just an answer
- ✓ Friendly, third-grade-ready explanations
- ✓ Catches and explains common misconceptions
- ✓ Parents can help even without a math background

Learn from every mistake!

Single-Skill Worksheets

- ✓ Targets one Grade 3 math skill per page
- ✓ Covers place value, multiplication, fractions, measurement, geometry
- ✓ Includes a Quick Review + Practice + Word Problems
- ✓ Built-in friendly Answer Key for self-checking

Master one skill at a time!