

Family Letter

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Knowing how to apply percents is a valuable skill. We encounter percents in so many different aspects of our daily lives. We use percents when we buy something on sale, when we calculate taxes or commissions, and when we interpret statistical information. Because we all purchase a number of different goods and services, knowing how to use percents will help us plan our budgets and make important financial decisions.

In **Chapter 8, Applying Percent**, your child will learn about percents. Your child will learn how to estimate percents, and to predict the actions of a larger group by using a sample. Your child will also learn how to solve problems involving sales tax, discount, and simple interest. In the study of this chapter, your child will complete a variety of daily classroom assignments and activities and possibly produce a chapter project.

By signing this letter and returning it with your child, you agree to encourage your child by getting involved. Enclosed is an activity you can do with your child that also relates the math we will be learning in **Chapter 8** to the real world. You may also wish to log on to the **Online Study Tools** for self-check quizzes, Parent and Student Study Guide pages, and other study help at www.msmath2.net. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me at school.

Sincerely,

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____

Family Activity

Discount and Sales Tax

Work with a family member to answer the following questions. Visit a favorite clothing or grocery store and select three items that are on sale. Also, find the percent of sales tax in your area.

1. Record the name and the original price of the first item. Find the percent of discount to the nearest percent. For example, if a shirt that was originally \$30.00 was marked down to \$27.00, then the percent of discount would be:

$$\begin{aligned} \$30.00 - \$27.00 &= \$3.00 \\ \$3.00 \div \$30.00 \times 100\% &= 10\% \end{aligned}$$

Using the percent of sales tax for your area, find the amount of sales tax to the nearest cent. For example, if the sales tax was 8.25%, then the amount of the sales tax would be:

$$0.0825 \times \$27.00 = \$2.23.$$

2. Record the name and the original price of the second item. Find the percent of discount to the nearest percent. Then, using the percent of sales tax for your area, find the amount of sales tax to the nearest cent.
3. Record the name and the original price of the third item. Find the percent of discount to the nearest percent. Then, using the percent of sales tax for your area, find the amount of sales tax to the nearest cent.
4. Which of your three items has the greatest discount? On which item will you pay the greatest sales tax?