

FREE MINI MISSION

The Sale

A free single-session taste of the 3-day mission.

GRADE 6 · MATH (PERCENTS & SMART SHOPPING) · ~45 MIN · 1 CLASS PERIOD

Your sixth graders are buying gear for the team and want the best price on the same item. Three stores are running sales — and the loudest “50% OFF!” isn’t the cheapest, because that store’s regular price is so high. Students compute the **final price** after each discount to find the real deal.

TEACHER QUICK-START

Objective: Students find a percent of a quantity and compute final sale prices to compare deals — seeing that the biggest “% off” doesn’t mean the lowest price.

Standards tie-in: CCSS 6.RP.3c (find a percent of a quantity; solve percent problems) and 6.RP.3 (reason with ratios and rates); construct an argument from evidence (MP.2, MP.3).

What you need: Just this packet. Print the student pages (one per team of 3–4). Calculators optional. No prep.

- 1. Set the scene (5 min).** “You’re buying team gear. Find the store with the lowest FINAL price — not the biggest ‘% OFF’ sign.”
- 2. Hand out the data (10 min).** Teams read the three store offers and the rule.
- 3. Compute & decide (18 min).** Teams find each store’s discount amount and final price, compare, and pick one.
- 4. The reveal (8 min).** Walk the answer key. The point: the biggest discount isn’t the lowest price when the regular price is high.
- 5. Reflection (4 min).** Each student answers the reflection question.

STUDENT PAGE 1 — THE BRIEF

You need the same team water bottle, and three stores are selling it on sale. Each lists a regular price and a discount. Find the store with the lowest price AFTER the discount.

THE THREE OFFERS

Store	Regular price	Discount
Store A	\$24	25% off
Store B (“BIG 50% OFF!”)	\$40	50% off
Store C	\$20	30% off

The Rule: The best deal is the lowest **final price** (regular price minus the discount), not the biggest “% off.” A huge discount off a high price can still cost more than a small discount off a low price.

STUDENT PAGE 2 — YOUR CALL (DECISION SHEET)**Team name:** _____**Step 1.** For each store, find the discount amount (percent of the regular price) and the final price.

Store	Discount amount	Final price
A — \$24, 25% off	25% of \$24 = _____	\$24 – _____ = _____
B — \$40, 50% off	50% of \$40 = _____	\$40 – _____ = _____
C — \$20, 30% off	30% of \$20 = _____	\$20 – _____ = _____

Step 2. Which store has the lowest final price? _____**Step 3.** Explain why the “BIG 50% OFF” store isn’t the best deal. Use your numbers:

ANSWER KEY (for the reveal)

Final prices: Store A → 25% of \$24 = \$6 off → **\$18**. Store B → 50% of \$40 = \$20 off → **\$20**. Store C → 30% of \$20 = \$6 off → **\$14**.

Store C — the best deal at \$14. Only 30% off, but its regular price is low (\$20), so the final price is the lowest.

Store B — the “50% OFF” trap. It has the biggest discount, but its regular price is \$40, so the final price (\$20) is actually the HIGHEST of the three.

Store A — middle. \$18 final. A solid deal, but Store C still wins.

The big idea: Store B’s “50% OFF” is the biggest discount, so it *looks* like the best deal — but a percent off only tells you how much comes off, not the final price. The team that computed each final price saw Store C was actually the cheapest.

REFLECTION (graded on thinking, not the “right” answer)

“Which store did you choose, and how did computing the final price — not the size of the ‘% off’ — lead you there?”

Scoring the thinking	3 — Strong	2 — Developing	1 — Beginning
Computes percents	Finds discount and final price for all three	Some correct	Not computed
Final price over “% off”	Rejects the 50% store using final price	Mentions it	Chose biggest % off
Explains clearly	A reader can follow the reason	Partly clear	Unclear

Ready to outsmart every sale?

This was one decision. In the full 3-day mission, your team compares different deal STRUCTURES (percent off vs. “buy 2 get 1 free” vs. dollars off), then catches a fake “60% OFF” that’s really a marked-up price — all with percents and rates.

Graded on the reasoning you can back up with the math, not on a “right” answer.

The full Sale mission is coming to patiencelearning.com — explore the full simulation catalog there now.