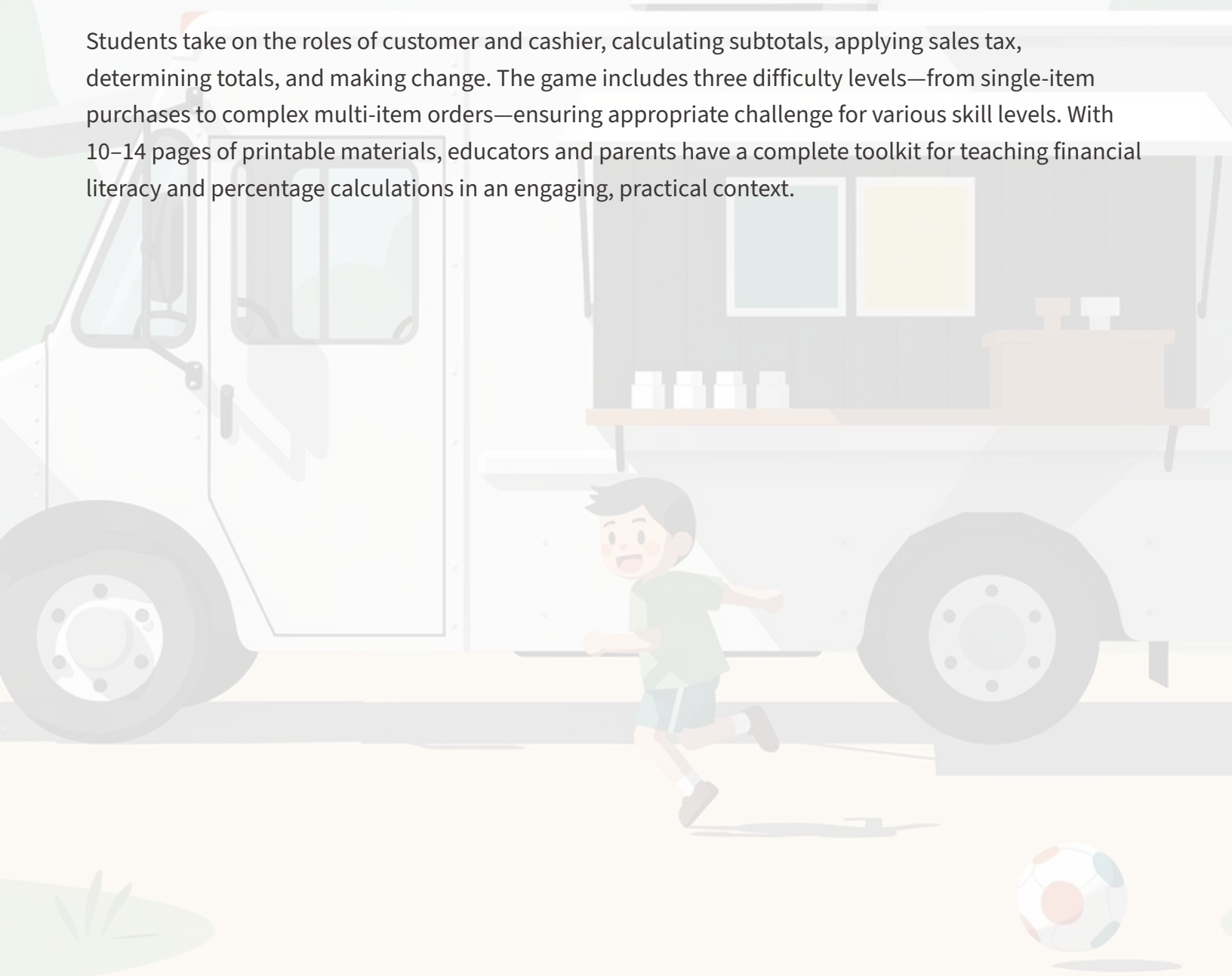
# Food Truck Menu Math

A printable checkout game to practice sales tax, totals, and change for Grades 2–5. Based on the book "JJ and Andrea at the Park: Understanding Sales Tax," this comprehensive game pack helps students master real-world math skills through hands-on play. Inside you'll find everything needed for an engaging learning experience: a colorful menu, order cards, play money (cash and coins), checkout mats for tracking calculations, step-by-step solutions to guide learning, and an exit ticket to assess understanding. Perfect for classroom centers, homeschool activities, or family game nights, this pack transforms abstract math concepts into concrete, memorable experiences.

Students take on the roles of customer and cashier, calculating subtotals, applying sales tax, determining totals, and making change. The game includes three difficulty levels—from single-item purchases to complex multi-item orders—ensuring appropriate challenge for various skill levels. With 10–14 pages of printable materials, educators and parents have a complete toolkit for teaching financial literacy and percentage calculations in an engaging, practical context.



# How to Play Food Truck Menu Math

01

### Setup Your Game

Print the menu, order cards, and cash & coins pages. Choose a sales tax rate for today's game—10% is recommended for beginners. Cut out the order cards if desired, and give each player a stack of play money or a set amount like $20.00 to start their shopping adventure.

02

### Assign Roles

Players can take turns being the Customer (who chooses an order card and "buys" items) and the Cashier (who calculates subtotal, tax, total, and change). Switch roles after every 3 orders to give everyone practice with both perspectives.

03

### Calculate and Check

Use the checkout mat to track each calculation step. Remember: tax is added at checkout, so the total will always be higher than the menu price. Earn 1 point for every order with correct subtotal, tax, total, and change calculations.

### Game Duration

10–20 minutes per round

### Players

1–4 kids (or kid + adult cashier)

**Important Tip:** Tax is added at checkout, so the total is always higher than the menu price. This is a key concept students will practice throughout the game.

# JJ & Andrea's Park Food Truck Menu

Use this menu to build orders and practice calculating costs. All prices shown are before tax—students will need to add the sales tax rate during checkout to find the final total. The menu features a variety of popular food truck items across three categories: Food, Drinks, and Treats.

## Food

- Hot Dog — $3.00
- Nachos — $4.50
- Slice of Pizza — $3.75
- Pretzel — $2.50
- Popcorn — $2.25

## Drinks

- Water — $1.25
- Lemonade — $2.00
- Juice Box — $1.75

## Treats

- Ice Pop — $1.50
- Cookie — $1.25
- Ice Cream Cup — $2.75

> **Sales Tax Rate Today: 10%**

# Tax Helper: Making 10% Easy

Understanding how to calculate 10% tax is a crucial skill for this game. The good news? There's a simple trick that makes it easy! When we say 10%, we mean 10 out of every 100, or one-tenth of the total. The fastest way to find 10% of any dollar amount is to move the decimal point one place to the left.

### What Does 10% Mean?

10% means 10 out of 100. It's the same as dividing by 10, or taking one-tenth of the amount.

### The Fast Trick

Move the decimal point one place to the left. That's it! This works for any dollar amount.

## Quick Examples

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| **$3.00** | **$4.50** | **$12.00** |
| Tax: $0.30 | Tax: $0.45 | Tax: $1.20 |

**Rounding Reminder:** If you get three decimal places (like $0.375), round to the nearest cent. In this case, $0.375 rounds to $0.38.

# Checkout Receipt Template

This checkout mat serves as a receipt template where students can organize their calculations step by step. Working through each section systematically helps prevent errors and builds strong computational habits. Students write down the items they're purchasing, calculate the subtotal by adding all item prices, determine the tax amount using the 10% rule, add subtotal and tax to find the total, then calculate change from the amount paid.

1

## Order Details

Write the name of each item being purchased and its individual price from the menu.

2

## Subtotal

Add up all the item prices before tax. This is the cost of just the food and drinks.

3

## Tax (10%)

Calculate 10% of the subtotal by moving the decimal one place left. Round to nearest cent if needed.

4

## Total

Add the subtotal and tax together. This is the final amount the customer must pay.

5

## Money Paid

Write how much money the customer gave (from the order card).

6

## Change

Subtract the total from the money paid. This is what the customer gets back.

☐ Check this box: My total is higher than my subtotal (because of tax)

# Play Money: Cash & Coins

Hands-on manipulation of money helps students develop concrete understanding of currency values and change-making skills. This page provides printable bills and coins that students can cut out and use throughout the game. The tactile experience of counting out payment and receiving change reinforces mathematical concepts in a memorable, engaging way.

## Bills Available

- $1 bills
- $5 bills
- $10 bills
- $20 bills

## Coins Available

- 1¢ (pennies)
- 5¢ (nickels)
- 10¢ (dimes)
- 25¢ (quarters)

**Differentiation Tip:** Use only bills for younger kids or beginners. Add coins for students ready for a harder challenge. This allows you to adjust difficulty based on student readiness.

Instructions: Cut out the bills and coins carefully. Store them in an envelope or small container between game sessions. Students will use this play money to "pay" for their orders and practice making change. Having physical money to manipulate makes abstract concepts concrete and helps students visualize the transaction process.

# Order Cards: Three Difficulty Levels

The game includes 18 order cards organized into three progressive difficulty levels. Students draw one card at a time, and the cashier must calculate the subtotal, tax, total, and change. This scaffolded approach allows students to build confidence with simple transactions before tackling more complex multi-item orders. Each card specifies exactly what to buy and how much money the customer is paying with.

1

## Set A: Easy (1 Item)

Single-item purchases perfect for beginners. Examples: Buy 1 Hot Dog, pay with $5.00 • Buy 1 Nachos, pay with $10.00 • Buy 1 Ice Cream Cup, pay with $5.00 • Buy 1 Lemonade, pay with $5.00 • Buy 1 Slice of Pizza, pay with $10.00 • Buy 1 Popcorn, pay with $5.00

## Set B: Medium (2 Items)

Two-item combinations that require addition before calculating tax. Examples: Buy 1 Pretzel + 1 Water, pay with $10.00 • Buy 1 Hot Dog + 1 Lemonade, pay with $10.00 • Buy 1 Nachos + 1 Juice Box, pay with $10.00 • Buy 1 Pizza + 1 Cookie, pay with $10.00 • Buy 1 Ice Pop + 1 Juice Box, pay with $5.00 • Buy 1 Popcorn + 1 Water, pay with $5.00

3

## Set C: Challenge (3+ Items)

Complex orders with three or more items. Examples: Buy 2 Hot Dogs + 1 Lemonade, pay with $20.00 • Buy 1 Nachos + 1 Pretzel + 1 Water, pay with $20.00 • Buy 1 Pizza + 1 Ice Cream Cup + 1 Juice Box, pay with $20.00 • Buy 2 Cookies + 1 Lemonade + 1 Ice Pop, pay with $10.00

Cut along the dotted lines to separate individual order cards. Shuffle them and place them face-down in a stack. Students draw from the top to receive their "order" for each round.

# Receipt Detective: Find the Mistakes

Critical thinking meets math practice in this error-detection activity. Students examine three receipts, each containing a calculation mistake. They must identify what's wrong, explain the error, and provide the correct answer. This activity reinforces understanding by requiring students to analyze rather than simply compute, developing their ability to spot common mistakes and verify their own work.

### Receipt 1

Subtotal: $5.00
Tax (10%): $0.40
Total: $5.40

**What's wrong?** The tax calculation is incorrect. 10% of $5.00 should be $0.50, not $0.40.

**Correct tax:** $0.50
**Correct total:** $5.50

### Receipt 2

Subtotal: $8.25
Tax (10%): $0.83
Total: $9.08

**What's wrong?** The tax was rounded incorrectly. 10% of $8.25 is $0.825, which should round to $0.83, but the total calculation is wrong.

**Correct total:** $9.08
(Actually this receipt is correct!)

### Receipt 3

Subtotal: $12.00
Tax (10%): $1.20
Total: $12.20

**What's wrong?** The total is incorrect. The subtotal ($12.00) plus tax ($1.20) should equal $13.20, not $12.20.

**Correct total:** $13.20

This activity helps students develop the habit of checking their work and understanding where errors commonly occur in multi-step calculations. Encourage students to explain their reasoning when they identify mistakes.

# Answer Key & Exit Ticket

The answer key provides step-by-step solutions for sample orders, showing students exactly how to work through each calculation. These worked examples serve as models students can reference when completing their own orders. The exit ticket assesses understanding with five key questions covering the essential concepts from the game.

## Sample Solutions

### Example 1

Pretzel ($2.50) + Water ($1.25)

Subtotal: $3.75
Tax (10%): $0.38
Total: $4.13

### Example 2

Hot Dog ($3.00) + Lemonade ($2.00)

Subtotal: $5.00
Tax: $0.50
Total: $5.50

### Example 3

Nachos ($4.50) + Juice Box ($1.75)

Subtotal: $6.25
Tax: $0.63
Total: $6.88

## Exit Ticket Questions

1. What is sales tax? (Answer: An extra charge added to purchases that goes to the government)
2. Find 10% of $7.50 (Answer: $0.75)
3. Subtotal is $6.25. Tax is 10%. Total is: (Answer: $6.88)
4. You pay $10.00 for a total of $5.50. Change is: (Answer: $4.50)
5. True or False: The checkout total can be higher than the menu price. (Answer: True)

**Rounding Note:** Always round tax to the nearest cent. For example, $0.375 becomes $0.38, and $0.624 becomes $0.62.

# Celebrate Success!

Completing Food Truck Menu Math represents real achievement in financial literacy and mathematical reasoning. Students have practiced calculating percentages, adding decimals, making change, and understanding how sales tax affects everyday purchases—skills they'll use throughout their lives. The certificate of completion recognizes their hard work and newfound expertise.

| 18 | 10% | 11 |
|---|---|---|
| **Order Cards** | **Tax Rate** | **Menu Items** |
| Different scenarios practiced across three difficulty levels | Mastered through repeated calculation and application | Food, drinks, and treats with varying prices to practice |

## Certificate of Completion

**Food Truck Checkout Expert**

This certifies that: _____

Completed: Food Truck Menu Math

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Ready for more learning adventures? Visit **accountingforgradeschoolers.com** to discover additional resources that make financial literacy fun and accessible for elementary students. From budgeting basics to entrepreneurship concepts, there's a whole world of practical math skills waiting to be explored. Keep practicing, keep learning, and watch your confidence with money math grow!