Mini Guide for Parents/Teachers + 7 Days of Micro-Lessons

A simple, ready-to-teach plan

Use *JJ and Andrea in the Park: Understanding Sales Tax* (Grades 2–5)

VOCABULARY   MINI-LESSONS   ASSESSMENTS   CERTIFICATE

What Does This Guide Do?

This mini-guide helps you teach the book's main idea in **7 short sessions (5–10 minutes each)**. Children will learn fundamental concepts about sales tax in a practical and fun way.

Tag vs. Total

Difference between sticker price and total at checkout

What Percentage Means

Kid-friendly explanation of the concept of percentage

Calculate 10% Tax

How to find 10% sales tax

Total and Change

How to calculate the total and check receipts

Ideal for: at-home practice, tutoring, classroom warm-ups, homeschooling, after-school programs.

Learning Objectives

By the end of Day 7, students will be able to demonstrate a complete understanding of basic sales tax concepts and apply them in practical situations.

01

Explain the Difference

Why the total at checkout can be greater than the sticker price

02

Find 10%

Of a whole dollar amount and with decimals

03

Calculate Total

Total = Subtotal + Tax

04

Calculate Change

Change = Money Paid – Total

05

Detect Errors

Identify common errors in tax calculations

Key Vocabulary

Kid-friendly definitions to help understand basic financial concepts.

Price Tag

The price you see on an item before paying at checkout

Subtotal

The total of the item prices before tax is added

Sales Tax

Extra money added at checkout (helps pay for public services)

Percentage

"Out of 100" (10% means 10 out of every 100)

Tax Rate

The percentage used to calculate the tax (today we are using 10%)

Total

Subtotal + Tax

Change

Money you get back after paying

🗒 Helpful Phrases

- "Tax is added at checkout"
- "The total might change"
- "Let's check the receipt"

Common Mistakes

Identify and correct these frequent errors to ensure students master the concepts correctly.

Forgetting the Tax

Not adding the tax to the subtotal when calculating the final total

Not Rounding to Cents

Finding 10% but not rounding correctly to cents

Confusing Subtotal and Total

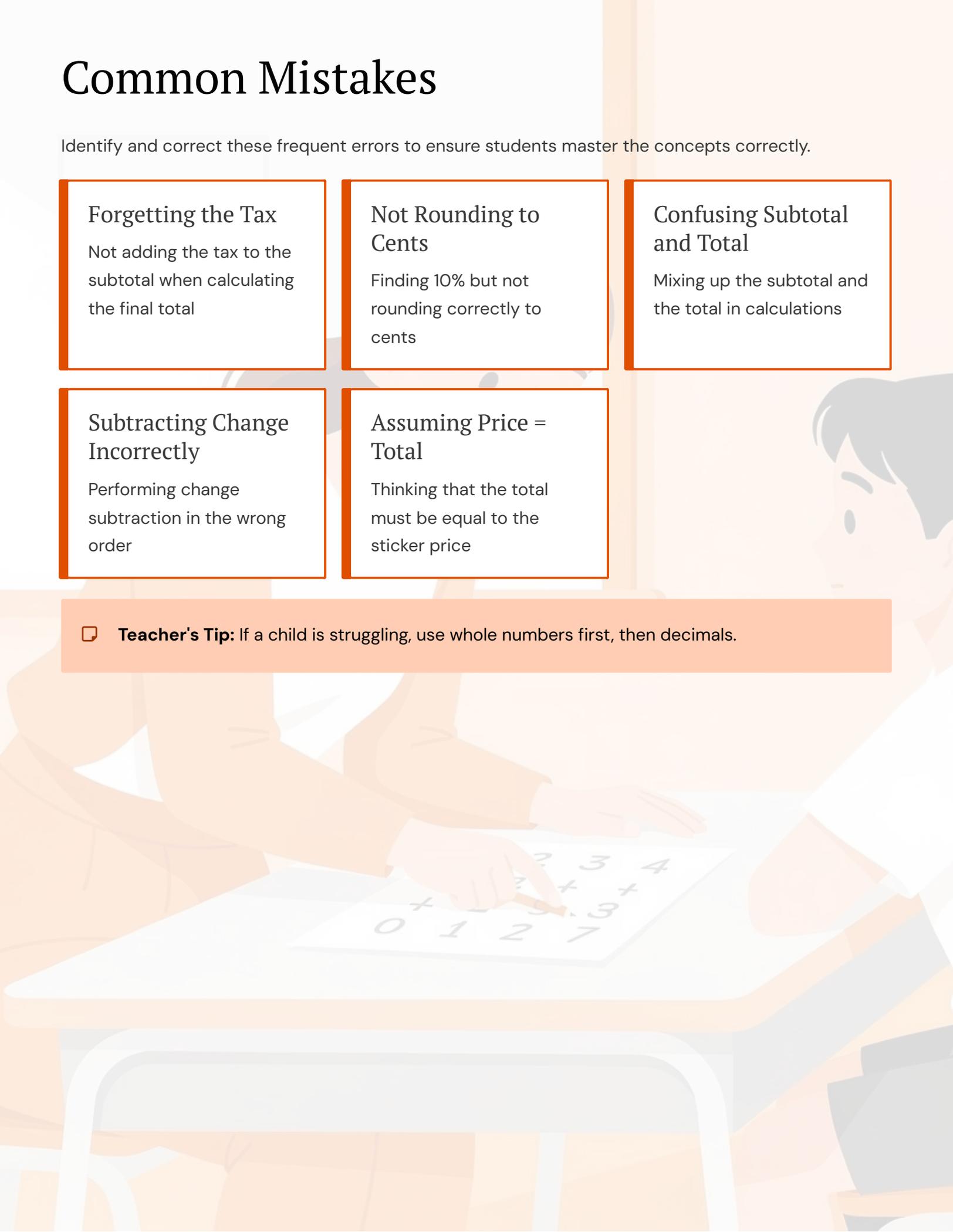Mixing up the subtotal and the total in calculations

Subtracting Change Incorrectly

Performing change subtraction in the wrong order

Assuming Price = Total

Thinking that the total must be equal to the sticker price

📝 **Teacher's Tip:** If a child is struggling, use whole numbers first, then decimals.

7-Day Plan

Micro Lessons (5–10 min/day)

A structured and progressive plan that builds understanding step-by-step, from basic concepts to practical applications.

1 — Day 1

Price tag vs. register total (identify and explain)

2 — Day 2

What percentage means (10% in simple terms)

3 — Day 3

Finding 10% quickly (move decimal / divide by 10)

4 — Day 4

Total = subtotal + tax (individual item)

5 — Day 5

Total with 2–3 items (make a subtotal first)

6 — Day 6

Change (money paid – total)

7 — Day 7

Review + Exit Ticket + Certificate

Day 1 — Price Tag vs. Total at Checkout

Objective: Understand that the total may be higher at checkout.

Quick Script (say this): "On the shelf you see the **price tag**. At checkout, the store may add **sales tax**, so the **total** may be different."

Mini Practice (circle)

Exercise 1	Exercise 2	Exercise 3
Tag $3.00 | Total $3.30	Tag $4.50 | Total $4.95	Tag $2.25 | Total $2.48
→ Circle: Tag / Total	→ Circle: Tag / Total	→ Circle: Tag / Total

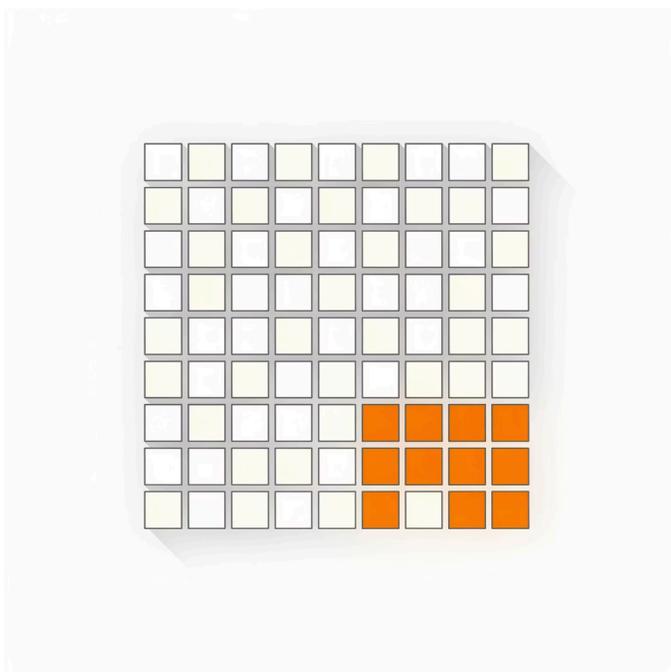**Check-in Question:** Why is the total higher? _____

Day 2 and Day 3

Day 2 — Percentage in Simple Words

> **Script:** "Percentage means 'out of 100'. So **10%** means **10 out of 100**."

Practice: Write 10% in words:

_____

Day 3 — Finding 10% Quickly

> **Script:** "To find 10%, move the decimal one place to the left."

Practice (find 10%):

- $6.00 → _____
- $8.50 → _____
- $12.00 → _____
- $2.30 → _____

Day 4 and Day 5

Day 4 — Total (Single Item)

Formula: Total = Price + Tax

Practice:

- Price $5.00 → Tax _____ → Total _____
- Price $7.50 → Tax _____ → Total _____

Day 5 — Total (Multiple Items)

Steps:

1. Add prices → Subtotal
2. Find tax (10%)
3. Add → Total

Practice:

Hot Dog $3.00 + Juice $2.00

- Subtotal _____
- Tax _____
- Total _____

Day 6 & Day 7

Day 6 — Change

Formula: Change = Money Paid – Total

Practice:

- Total $5.50, you pay $10.00 → Change _____
- Total $6.88, you pay $10.00 → Change _____

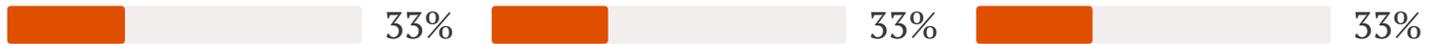## Day 7 — Review + Exit Ticket

Exit Ticket (5 Questions):

1. What is the difference between list price and total at checkout?
2. Find 10% of $9.00: _____
3. Price $6.50 → Total after 10% tax: _____
4. Subtotal $10.00 → Total after 10% tax: _____
5. You pay $20.00 for a total of $13.20 → Change: _____

Quick Rubric + Certificate

Evaluate student progress and celebrate their achievement with an official certificate.

Quick Rubric (Circle One)

33%

Price vs. Total

Achieved / Developing / Needs Support

33%

10% Tax

Achieved / Developing / Needs Support

33%

Total (subtotal + tax)

Achieved / Developing / Needs Support

33%

Change

Achieved / Developing / Needs Support

33%

Error Checking

Achieved / Developing / Needs Support

> 🗒 **Certificate: Sales Tax Mini-Unit Completed**
>
> Name: _____
>
> Date: _____
>
> Signature: _____

More practice packets and the book at: accountingforgradeschoolers.com

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