

SIX CASES. ONE SHARP DETECTIVE CREW.

YOUR FIRST CASE STARTS HERE

A receipt tells a story: what was bought, what was charged and what was paid. Your job is to compare that story with the evidence. Some mistakes hide in a total. Others hide in the price or quantity. One receipt may be completely right!

WHO CAN PLAY

Ages 8–12 with reading or maths support as needed. Play solo, in pairs, or in teams of 2–4. Allow about 20–35 minutes. Bring pencils and scrap paper; calculators are optional.

PRINT YOUR CASE FILE

Pages 2–7: six case sheets. Page 8: detective report (one per player or team). Page 9: optional hints. Pages 10–11: host answers; keep these separate. Print on Letter paper at Actual Size / 100%. No cutting is required.

PLAY AND SCORE

Solve each case in order. Record your finding, the correct amounts and a polite way to ask for a check. Earn 1 point for identifying the issue (or correctly finding none), 1 for all requested amounts, and 1 for a clear, respectful explanation. Maximum 18 points.

USE THE EVIDENCE

Do not assume a mistake just because a receipt looks suspicious. Check the shopping story, quantities, prices and maths. If you need help, read only the hint for your current case.

GAME PRICE RULE

All amounts are Canadian dollars and final pretend prices. Do not add tax, fees or rounding. These fictional cases simplify shopping for learning. If money is due back, calculate it; you do not need real cash.



CASE 1 | THE SHORT CHANGE

DIFFICULTY: EASY Read the story. Inspect the receipt. Follow the evidence.

Milo buys one juice for $3 and one snack for $4. He pays $10. He receives $2 change.

CORNER SHOP	
Juice	**$3.00**
Snack	**$4.00**
TOTAL	**$7.00**
PAID	**$10.00**
CHANGE	**$2.00**

YOUR INVESTIGATION
Check the total and the change. Is a correction needed? What is the correct change, and how much more should Milo receive?

Finding: _____

Maths / corrected amounts: _____

What would you say? _____



CASE 2 | THE EXTRA PACK

DIFFICULTY: EASY Read the story. Inspect the receipt. Follow the evidence.

Amara buys ONE marker pack, ONE notebook and ONE glue stick. She pays the printed total.

CRAFT STOP	
Marker pack	**$6.00**
Notebook	**$5.00**
Glue stick	**$2.00**
Marker pack	**$6.00**
TOTAL	**$19.00**

YOUR INVESTIGATION
Find the charge that does not match the shopping story. What should the total be? How much was overpaid?

Finding: _____

Maths / corrected amounts: _____

What would you say? _____



CASE 3 | THE VANISHING DISCOUNT

DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM Read the story. Inspect the receipt. Follow the evidence.

A sign says: “Lunch bag: regular $12, today $3 off.” Noor buys one lunch bag and one $4 water bottle. The offer has no conditions and applies today. She pays the printed total.

EVERYDAY FINDS

Lunch bag	**$12.00**
Water bottle	**$4.00**
TOTAL	**$16.00**

YOUR INVESTIGATION
Use the sale sign as evidence. Find the correct lunch bag price, corrected total and amount overpaid.

Finding: _____

Maths / corrected amounts: _____

What would you say? _____



CASE 4 | THE QUANTITY MIX-UP

DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM Read the story. Inspect the receipt. Follow the evidence.

Leo buys FOUR sticker sheets at $2 each and ONE $4 folder. He pays the printed total. The receipt shows a line total, not a unit price, for the stickers.

PAPER PLACE

Sticker sheets: 4 × $2	**$12.00**
Folder	**$4.00**
TOTAL	**$16.00**

YOUR INVESTIGATION
Check the multiplication before checking the total. What should the sticker line and full total be? How much was overpaid?

Finding: _____

Maths / corrected amounts: _____

What would you say? _____



CASE 5 | THE SHELF TAG CLUE

DIFFICULTY: TRICKY Read the story. Inspect the receipt. Follow the evidence.

Zara takes ONE Sketch Pad A5, item code SP15, and ONE $7 pencil set. The matching shelf tag reads “Sketch Pad A5 / SP15 / $6.” The store agrees to use that displayed price for this game. She pays the receipt total.

ART CORNER	
Sketch Pad A5 / SP15	**$8.00**
Pencil set	**$7.00**
TOTAL	**$15.00**

YOUR INVESTIGATION
Match the item code before deciding. What price should be used under the stated store agreement? Find the corrected total and overpayment.

Finding: _____

Maths / corrected amounts: _____

What would you say? _____



CASE 6 | THE CLEAN RECEIPT

DIFFICULTY: TRICKY Read the story. Inspect the receipt. Follow the evidence.

Kai buys TWO $3 notebooks and ONE $1.50 pen. He pays $10 and receives $2.50 change. Check carefully: a detective should not invent a mistake.

SCHOOL SUPPLY SHOP	
Notebooks: 2 × $3	**$6.00**
Pen	**$1.50**
TOTAL	**$7.50**
PAID	**$10.00**
CHANGE	**$2.50**

YOUR INVESTIGATION
Is any correction needed? Calculate the total and change. If everything matches, report “No correction needed” and explain why.

Finding: _____

Maths / corrected amounts: _____

What would you say? _____



MY DETECTIVE REPORT

Detective / team name: _____

CASE 1 Finding: _____

Correct amounts: _____ Points: ____ / 3

CASE 2 Finding: _____

Correct amounts: _____ Points: ____ / 3

CASE 3 Finding: _____

Correct amounts: _____ Points: ____ / 3

CASE 4 Finding: _____

Correct amounts: _____ Points: ____ / 3

CASE 5 Finding: _____

Correct amounts: _____ Points: ____ / 3

CASE 6 Finding: _____

Correct amounts: _____ Points: ____ / 3

TOTAL: ____ / 18 Hints used: ____

My best receipt-checking tip: _____



THE HINT COUNTER

CASE 1

Add the two purchases, then subtract that total from the amount paid. Compare your answer with the change received.

CASE 2

Compare how many marker packs were bought with how many marker lines appear.

CASE 3

Take $3 off the lunch bag first. Then add the bottle.

CASE 4

Four sheets at $2 each means 4 × 2. Check that line before adding the folder.

CASE 5

Check that SP15 appears on both the shelf tag and the receipt. Use the price the fictional store agreed to honour.

CASE 6

Two notebooks do not cost $3 in total. Multiply first, then add the pen and calculate change. It is possible that nothing needs fixing.

BONUS TALK: Which should you check first: the receipt total or the individual items? Explain why both matter.



HOST ANSWERS | KEEP SEPARATE

CASE 1 | THE SHORT CHANGE

The change is short by $1. Correct change is $3.

Total $3 + $4 = $7. Change $10 − $7 = $3. Milo got $2, so $1 is still due.

Example wording: Could you please check my change? I paid $10 for $7 of items, so I think it should be $3.

CASE 2 | THE EXTRA PACK

The marker pack was charged twice. Correct total is $13; overpayment is $6.

One of each costs $6 + $5 + $2 = $13. Printed total $19 − $13 = $6 extra.

Example wording: Could you please check this marker charge? I bought one pack, but it appears twice.

CASE 3 | THE VANISHING DISCOUNT

The $3 discount is missing. Bag price is $9; total is $13; overpayment is $3.

$12 − $3 = $9. Total $9 + $4 = $13. Printed total $16 − $13 = $3 extra.

Example wording: The sign says this bag is $3 off today. Could you please check whether the discount was applied?

Scoring: 1 point for the finding, 1 for all requested amounts, 1 for a respectful explanation. Accept different wording that uses the evidence. Each case is worth 3 points.



HOST ANSWERS | KEEP SEPARATE

CASE 4 | THE QUANTITY MIX-UP

The sticker line should be $8. Correct total is $12; overpayment is $4.

4 × $2 = $8, not $12. Total $8 + $4 = $12. Printed total $16 − $12 = $4 extra.

Example wording: Could you please check the sticker line? Four sheets at $2 each should cost $8.

CASE 5 | THE SHELF TAG CLUE

The matching pad was charged $8 instead of $6. Correct total is $13; overpayment is $2.

SP15 matches the shelf tag. Use $6. Total $6 + $7 = $13. $15 − $13 = $2 extra. This is the fictional store agreement, not a general pricing-law rule.

Example wording: This pad has the same SP15 code as the $6 shelf tag. Could you please check the price?

CASE 6 | THE CLEAN RECEIPT

No correction needed. Total $7.50 and change $2.50 are correct.

2 × $3 = $6. Add $1.50 for $7.50. $10 − $7.50 = $2.50. All evidence matches.

Example wording: No correction needed. I checked the quantities, total and change; they match.

Scoring: 1 point for the finding, 1 for all requested amounts, 1 for a respectful explanation. Accept different wording that uses the evidence. Each case is worth 3 points.