DEAL OR DISTRACTION?

PRINTABLE GAME | Ages 9-14 | Solo, pairs or teams | 30-45 minutes



The best deal has to work for YOU.

Join the PINDAB shopping crew for 12 missions. Compare bundles, delivery charges, extra fees and tempting offers. Pick the lowest total that meets the shopper's real need and stays within their budget.

ROUND 1 / Catch the obvious distractions

ROUND 2 / Read the small print

ROUND 3 / Know when to borrow, repair or wait

Includes 12 mission sheets, a score tracker and a separate host answer guide. Play without real shopping or spending.

HOW THE CREW PLAYS

You need: these pages, a pencil and optional scrap paper. No calculator required.

Set up

Print pages 3-14 for missions and page 15 for a score tracker. Keep pages 16-18 as the host guide. Print one mission set per player or team, or share the offers and answer on scrap paper.

Choose your game

Quick game: play four missions. Full game: play all 12 in three rounds of four. Solo: cover the answers until you finish. Teams: agree on a choice and explain it.

Investigate each offer

Read the shopper's need, deadline and budget. Work out every offer's full cost. Choose A, B, C or WAIT. WAIT is the right move if no listed option meets both the need and budget.

Earn points

Each mission is worth 5 points: 1 for each correct offer total (3), 1 for the correct final choice, and 1 for an explanation linked to the need, budget or hidden cost. Full game: 60 points. A four-mission game: 20 points. Different correct wording is welcome.

Reveal and discuss

Check answers after each round. You can disagree and recheck your maths together. There is no speed bonus. Good reasoning matters more than finishing first.

Price rules for every mission

All prices are fictional Canadian dollars. Tax is already included in the listed prices and fees. Add only the fees shown. No extra travel costs apply unless stated. Count all required future payments when comparing a commitment. Assume the facts given are true; this game is about value, not checking for scams.

MISSION 01 / ROUND 1

ONE NOTEBOOK, NOT SIX

THE SHOPPER'S MISSION

Maya needs one notebook for tomorrow. Budget: $8. All notebooks are equally suitable.

A / Local shop

$4 for one notebook. No delivery fee.

B / Online special

$2 for one notebook + $5 delivery.

C / Super bundle

Six notebooks for $9. Must buy the whole pack.

COUNT THE WHOLE COST (include fees and required payments)

A: $_____ B: $_____ C: $_____

MY MOVE: A / B / C / WAIT **Money left:** $_____

Why does this choice fit the need and budget?

Which offer or extra could distract this shopper? Why?

MISSION 02 / ROUND 1

TEAM JUICE RUN

THE SHOPPER'S MISSION

Noah needs exactly eight juice boxes for a team meeting. Budget: $10. All options are the same size and quality.

A / Single boxes

$1.25 each. Buy eight.

B / Team pack

Eight boxes for $7 + $2 delivery.

C / Bulk boost

Twelve boxes for $10. No delivery fee.

COUNT THE WHOLE COST (include fees and required payments)

A: $_____ B: $_____ C: $_____

MY MOVE: A / B / C / WAIT **Money left:** $_____

Why does this choice fit the need and budget?

Which offer or extra could distract this shopper? Why?

MISSION 03 / ROUND 1

THE FREE-SHIPPING TRAP

THE SHOPPER'S MISSION

Leila needs one $12 art kit. Budget: $20. She does not need any other supplies.

A / Just the kit

$12 kit + $4 delivery.

B / Unlock free shipping

Add $10 stickers to the $12 kit. Delivery becomes free.

C / Pick up locally

Same kit for $18. Caregiver pickup is already planned; no extra travel cost.

COUNT THE WHOLE COST (include fees and required payments)

A: $_____ B: $_____ C: $_____

MY MOVE: A / B / C / WAIT **Money left:** $_____

Why does this choice fit the need and budget?

Which offer or extra could distract this shopper? Why?

MISSION 04 / ROUND 1

CHEAPER IS NOT ALWAYS ENOUGH

THE SHOPPER'S MISSION

Andre needs a bottle that holds at least 750 mL. Budget: $15. Bigger bottles are equally sturdy.

A / Mini bargain

500 mL bottle for $6. No other cost.

B / Right size

750 mL bottle for $11. No other cost.

C / Online litre

1,000 mL bottle for $9 + $4 delivery.

COUNT THE WHOLE COST (include fees and required payments)

A: $_____ B: $_____ C: $_____

MY MOVE: A / B / C / WAIT **Money left:** $_____

Why does this choice fit the need and budget?

Which offer or extra could distract this shopper? Why?

MISSION 05 / ROUND 2

TWO SHIRTS, PLEASE

THE SHOPPER'S MISSION

Zara needs two plain shirts for a project. Budget: $20. All shirts are suitable. She needs no extras.

A / Buy one, get one half price

Each shirt is $12. First is full price; second is half price.

B / Two-shirt pack

Two shirts for $17 + $2 delivery.

C / Three for less each

Three shirts for $21. Must buy the whole pack.

COUNT THE WHOLE COST (include fees and required payments)

A: $_____ B: $_____ C: $_____

MY MOVE: A / B / C / WAIT **Money left:** $_____

Why does this choice fit the need and budget?

Which offer or extra could distract this shopper? Why?

MISSION 06 / ROUND 2

GAME NIGHT SEATS

THE SHOPPER'S MISSION

Four friends each need one entry ticket. Shared budget: $30. All offers are for the same event.

A / Door tickets

$7 per person. No booking fee.

B / Online saver

$5 per person + one $8 booking fee for the whole order.

C / Crew bundle

Four tickets for $24 + one $3 booking fee for the whole order.

COUNT THE WHOLE COST (include fees and required payments)

A: $_____ B: $_____ C: $_____

MY MOVE: A / B / C / WAIT **Money left:** $_____

Why does this choice fit the need and budget?

Which offer or extra could distract this shopper? Why?

MISSION 07 / ROUND 2

PHOTO PRINT PLAN

THE SHOPPER'S MISSION

Eli needs 20 photo prints today. Budget: $8. All prints are equally good.

A / Pay per print

$0.30 per print. No fee.

B / Starter special

First 10 prints free; remaining 10 cost $0.40 each. One $3 setup fee.

C / Monthly club

$5 first-month membership includes 20 prints. Two-month minimum; $5 next month too.

COUNT THE WHOLE COST (include fees and required payments)

A: $_____ B: $_____ C: $_____

MY MOVE: A / B / C / WAIT **Money left:** $_____

Why does this choice fit the need and budget?

Which offer or extra could distract this shopper? Why?

MISSION 08 / ROUND 2

REPAIR OR REPLACE?

THE SHOPPER'S MISSION

Imani needs a working backpack for Monday. Budget: $18. Only the zipper is broken; the rest is sturdy.

A / Replace it

Suitable new backpack for $16 + $3 delivery. Arrives Sunday.

B / Repair it

Known repair shop fixes the zipper for $8 by Saturday; no extra travel cost.

C / Sale backpack

Suitable backpack for $12 + $2 delivery. Arrives Wednesday, after it is needed.

COUNT THE WHOLE COST (include fees and required payments)

A: $_____ B: $_____ C: $_____

MY MOVE: A / B / C / WAIT **Money left:** $_____

Why does this choice fit the need and budget?

Which offer or extra could distract this shopper? Why?

MISSION 09 / ROUND 3

DON'T BUY A DISCOUNT

THE SHOPPER'S MISSION

Ben needs one $6 folder. Budget: $12. No one needs an extra folder.

A / Single folder

One folder for $6.

B / Buy two, get one free

Pay $6 each for two folders; get a third free.

C / Limited-time set

Three folders for $10. Must buy the full set.

COUNT THE WHOLE COST (include fees and required payments)

A: $_____ B: $_____ C: $_____

MY MOVE: A / B / C / WAIT **Money left:** $_____

Why does this choice fit the need and budget?

Which offer or extra could distract this shopper? Why?

MISSION 10 / ROUND 3

MARKET PAYMENT FEES

THE SHOPPER'S MISSION

Asha needs one $15 craft tool. Budget: $18. All sellers are known, and tools are identical.

A / Table pickup

$15 tool + $1 payment processing fee.

B / Online discount

$12 tool + $3 delivery + $2 processing fee.

C / All-in price

$16.50 tool with all fees included.

COUNT THE WHOLE COST (include fees and required payments)

A: $_____ B: $_____ C: $_____

MY MOVE: A / B / C / WAIT **Money left:** $_____

Why does this choice fit the need and budget?

Which offer or extra could distract this shopper? Why?

MISSION 11 / ROUND 3

USE WHAT YOU ALREADY HAVE

THE SHOPPER'S MISSION

Kai needs a calculator for homework tonight. Budget: $10. A family calculator works, meets the school rules and is available to borrow with permission.

A / Flash sale

Suitable calculator for $7. Available tonight.

B / Borrow first

Borrow the family calculator for $0 and return it after homework.

C / Online bargain

Suitable calculator for $4 + $3 delivery. Arrives next week.

COUNT THE WHOLE COST (include fees and required payments)

A: $_____ B: $_____ C: $_____

MY MOVE: A / B / C / WAIT **Money left:** $_____

Why does this choice fit the need and budget?

Which offer or extra could distract this shopper? Why?

MISSION 12 / ROUND 3

PAUSE THE PURCHASE

THE SHOPPER'S MISSION

Rina needs a suitable helmet before riding. Budget: $20. She owns no safe helmet. All three helmets below are suitable when properly fitted.

A / Low sticker price

$18 helmet + $5 delivery.

B / Store sale

$22 helmet. No other cost.

C / Bundle deal

$20 helmet-and-gloves bundle + $4 handling fee.

COUNT THE WHOLE COST (include fees and required payments)

A: $_____ B: $_____ C: $_____

MY MOVE: A / B / C / WAIT **Money left:** $_____

Why does this choice fit the need and budget?

Which offer or extra could distract this shopper? Why?

MY SHOPPING CREW SCORE

Name / team: _____ Date: _____

After each reveal, count: three offer totals (0-3) + final choice (0-1) + explanation (0-1). Money left is a practice question, not an extra point.

01 Choice: ____ Totals: ____ / 3 Choice: ____ / 1 Why: ____ / 1

02 Choice: ____ Totals: ____ / 3 Choice: ____ / 1 Why: ____ / 1

03 Choice: ____ Totals: ____ / 3 Choice: ____ / 1 Why: ____ / 1

04 Choice: ____ Totals: ____ / 3 Choice: ____ / 1 Why: ____ / 1

05 Choice: ____ Totals: ____ / 3 Choice: ____ / 1 Why: ____ / 1

06 Choice: ____ Totals: ____ / 3 Choice: ____ / 1 Why: ____ / 1

07 Choice: ____ Totals: ____ / 3 Choice: ____ / 1 Why: ____ / 1

08 Choice: ____ Totals: ____ / 3 Choice: ____ / 1 Why: ____ / 1

09 Choice: ____ Totals: ____ / 3 Choice: ____ / 1 Why: ____ / 1

10 Choice: ____ Totals: ____ / 3 Choice: ____ / 1 Why: ____ / 1

11 Choice: ____ Totals: ____ / 3 Choice: ____ / 1 Why: ____ / 1

12 Choice: ____ Totals: ____ / 3 Choice: ____ / 1 Why: ____ / 1

Total: _____ / _____ possible points

A shopping habit I want to try:

_____

HOST ANSWERS - KEEP SEPARATE

ROUND 1 | Missions 1-4

01 / ONE NOTEBOOK, NOT SIX - CHOOSE A

Totals A / B / C: $4; $7; $9
Money left: $4.00
A meets the need for the lowest total. B has the lowest item price, but costs $7 delivered. C exceeds the budget and supplies five unneeded books.

02 / TEAM JUICE RUN - CHOOSE B

Totals A / B / C: $10; $9; $10
Money left: $1.00
B gives the eight needed boxes for $9. C offers a lower cost per box but a higher total for this task.

03 / THE FREE-SHIPPING TRAP - CHOOSE A

Totals A / B / C: $16; $22; $18
Money left: $4.00
A costs $16. Spending $10 to avoid a $4 delivery fee adds $6 to the bill. B also exceeds the budget.

04 / CHEAPER IS NOT ALWAYS ENOUGH - CHOOSE B

Totals A / B / C: $6; $11; $13
Money left: $4.00
A is cheapest but does not meet the capacity requirement. B is the lowest-cost suitable bottle.

HOST ANSWERS - KEEP SEPARATE

ROUND 2 | Missions 5-8

05 / TWO SHIRTS, PLEASE - CHOOSE A

Totals A / B / C: $18; $19; $21
Money left: $2.00
A totals $12 + $6 = $18. B is $19 delivered. C costs more overall and exceeds the budget.

06 / GAME NIGHT SEATS - CHOOSE C

Totals A / B / C: $28; $28; $27
Money left: $3.00
C totals $27. A and B tie at $28. The $5 advertised ticket price does not make B the cheapest order.

07 / PHOTO PRINT PLAN - CHOOSE A

Totals A / B / C: $6; $7; $10 committed
Money left: $2.00
A is $6 with no ongoing commitment. B is $4 + $3 = $7. C commits Eli to $10 even though only $5 is paid today.

08 / REPAIR OR REPLACE? - CHOOSE B

Totals A / B / C: $19; $8; $14
Money left: $10.00
B restores the backpack in time for $8. A is over budget. C is cheaper than A but arrives too late.

HOST ANSWERS - KEEP SEPARATE

ROUND 3 | Missions 9-12

09 / DON'T BUY A DISCOUNT - CHOOSE A

Totals A / B / C: $6; $12; $10
Money left: $6.00
A is the smallest total that meets the need. More folders for less per folder can still mean spending more than necessary.

10 / MARKET PAYMENT FEES - CHOOSE A

Totals A / B / C: $16; $17; $16.50
Money left: $2.00
A is $16. Include each fee once. The lowest advertised tool price belongs to B, but it has the highest final bill.

11 / USE WHAT YOU ALREADY HAVE - CHOOSE B

Totals A / B / C: $7; $0; $7
Money left: $10.00
B meets the need tonight at no cost. A is optional spending. C cannot solve tonight's problem.

12 / PAUSE THE PURCHASE - CHOOSE WAIT

Totals A / B / C: $23; $22; $24
Money left: $20.00
All offers exceed $20. Choose WAIT: keep the money, do not ride without a suitable helmet, and ask a trusted adult to help find an affordable properly fitted option. The cheapest suitable listed offer is B at $22, but it is still over budget.

Talk it through: A sale can be real and still be unnecessary. Cost per item is useful, but the total and the actual need still matter.
Host note: Accept alternative wording that shows the same reasoning. WAIT means no purchase now; mission 12 does not suggest riding without a helmet.