

# How Much Did You Pay for That?

This exercise will help you determine what you know about the cost of living. The goal is to see how well you understand the amount of money you would need in order to live independently—whether living alone, with a roommate, or with a spouse.

Assume that all the items listed below are being bought new in a store. In the column titled “Your Estimate,” record your estimate of the price or price range for each item. The other two columns will be filled in later.

Your Estimate	First Price	Second Price
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## Services

Your Estimate	First Price	Second Price	
_____	_____	_____	washing and drying one load at a coin-operated laundry
_____	_____	_____	day care for one child for forty hours
_____	_____	_____	a room for two for one night at a good hotel
_____	_____	_____	the tip on dinner for two that costs \$38.75
_____	_____	_____	full membership for one person at the YMCA or the YWCA (or a comparable health club)
_____	_____	_____	telephone installation
_____	_____	_____	cable hookup
_____	_____	_____	a dentist’s charge for a checkup and teeth cleaning
_____	_____	_____	a doctor’s minimum charge for an office visit
_____	_____	_____	dry cleaning a suit, dress, or coat
_____	_____	_____	one hour’s labor by a plumber to unclog a drain



Your Estimate	First Price	Second Price
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## Clothing

Your Estimate	First Price	Second Price	
_____	_____	_____	a woman’s swimsuit
_____	_____	_____	a pair of panty hose
_____	_____	_____	a child’s pair of jeans
_____	_____	_____	a pair of leather work boots
_____	_____	_____	three pairs of wool socks
_____	_____	_____	a man’s dress suit
_____	_____	_____	a man’s pair of khakis
_____	_____	_____	a woman’s workout suit
_____	_____	_____	a pair of baby shoes
_____	_____	_____	a woman’s heavy winter coat



Your Estimate    First Price    Second Price

**Hardware**

_____	_____	_____	a twenty-one-inch window fan
_____	_____	_____	a six-foot wooden stepladder
_____	_____	_____	a set of four good screwdrivers
_____	_____	_____	a broom
_____	_____	_____	an adjustable wrench
_____	_____	_____	one gallon of interior latex paint
_____	_____	_____	a set of six steak knives
_____	_____	_____	a twelve-inch cast-iron frying pan
_____	_____	_____	a steam iron
_____	_____	_____	a pair of steel sewing shears

**Groceries**

_____	_____	_____	a ten-pound turkey
_____	_____	_____	a chocolate cake mix
_____	_____	_____	a five-pound bag of potatoes
_____	_____	_____	a week's supply of milk for two
_____	_____	_____	four rolls of toilet paper
_____	_____	_____	a two-pound box of laundry detergent
_____	_____	_____	a three-pound can of coffee
_____	_____	_____	two pounds of ground beef
_____	_____	_____	a large frozen sausage pizza
_____	_____	_____	two pounds of fresh broccoli

Your Estimate    First Price    Second Price

**Auto**

_____	_____	_____	a quart of motor oil
_____	_____	_____	a set of shock absorbers
_____	_____	_____	a pair of radial tires (small size)
_____	_____	_____	an oil change (oil, filter, labor)
_____	_____	_____	a tune-up
_____	_____	_____	a tire rotation
_____	_____	_____	a gallon of unleaded gasoline
_____	_____	_____	a change of coolant (coolant, labor)
_____	_____	_____	a new battery
_____	_____	_____	two new wiper blades
_____	_____	_____	license plates

**Furniture and Furnishings**

_____	_____	_____	a four-drawer wooden clothes chest
_____	_____	_____	a set of eight water glasses
_____	_____	_____	a fitted and a flat full-size sheet and two pillowcases
_____	_____	_____	a desk lamp
_____	_____	_____	a plastic shower curtain
_____	_____	_____	one bath towel
_____	_____	_____	four settings of everyday dishes
_____	_____	_____	a full-size bed
_____	_____	_____	a reclining chair
_____	_____	_____	a twenty-four-inch color television

