Name: _____ Date: _____

Cost Per Wear: The Cheap Coat Trap

Circle group

Two winter coats hang side by side in a store. One costs 40 dollars. The other costs 90 dollars. The first coat looks like the better deal. But smart spenders use another measure. It is called cost per wear.

Say the 40 dollar coat has thin seams and a zipper that sticks. It lasts one winter. Its owner wears it about 20 times. The 90 dollar coat has strong stitching and a thick lining. It lasts three winters. Its owner wears it about 90 times. To find the cost per wear, divide the price by the number of wears. For the cheap coat, 40 divided by 20 is 2 dollars per wear. For the costly coat, 90 divided by 90 is 1 dollar per wear.

The costly coat is the better bargain, even though it costs more on day one. The cheap coat must be replaced sooner. Then you pay again.

This idea has limits. A costly coat that stays in the closet has a high cost per wear. And a person with only 40 dollars cannot spend 90. Cost per wear is one good question to ask, along with your budget.

Questions

1. How much does the first coat cost?

_____

_____

2. How do you find the cost per wear?

_____

_____

3. What is the cost per wear of the 90 dollar coat?

_____

_____

4. Why is the costly coat the better bargain here?

_____

_____

5. Why would a costly coat in the closet be a poor buy?

_____

_____

6. Why is cost per wear not the only thing to think about?

_____

_____

Words to know

measure: a way of judging how good or large something is
seams: the lines where two pieces of cloth are sewn together
stitching: the thread that holds cloth together
bargain: something worth more than the money paid for it
budget: a plan for how much money you can spend

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Cost Per Wear: The Cheap Coat Trap

Triangle group

Two winter coats hang side by side in a store, and the first one costs 40 dollars while the second costs 90 dollars. At first glance, the cheaper coat is obviously the better deal, but thoughtful spenders sometimes use a different measure called cost per wear.

Suppose the 40 dollar coat has thin seams and a zipper that sticks. It lasts one winter, and its owner wears it about 20 times. The 90 dollar coat has strong stitching and thick lining. It lasts three winters, and its owner wears it about 90 times. To find the cost per wear, divide the price by the number of wears. For the cheaper coat, 40 divided by 20 is 2 dollars per wear. For the costly coat, 90 divided by 90 is just 1 dollar per wear.

The costly coat is actually the better bargain, even though it takes more money on the first day, and the cheaper coat also has to be replaced sooner, which means paying all over again.

This idea has limits, though. A very costly coat that stays in the closet has a high cost per wear, because the number of wears stays small. And someone with only 40 dollars cannot spend 90, no matter what the math says. Cost per wear works best as one helpful question to ask, alongside the budget you really have.

Questions

1. How much does the first coat cost?

_____

_____

2. How do you find the cost per wear?

_____

_____

3. What is the cost per wear of the 90 dollar coat in the example?

_____

_____

4. Why is the costly coat the better bargain in the example?

_____

_____

5. Why would a costly coat in the closet be a poor buy?

_____

_____

6. Why can cost per wear not be the only thing to think about?

_____

_____

Words to know

measure: a way of judging how good or large something is
seams: the lines where two pieces of cloth are sewn together
stitching: the thread that holds cloth together
bargain: something worth more than the money paid for it
budget: a plan for how much money you can spend

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Cost Per Wear: The Cheap Coat Trap

Square group

Two winter coats hang side by side in a department store. The first is priced at 40 dollars, and the second at 90 dollars. At first glance the cheaper coat appears to be the better deal, but thoughtful spenders sometimes apply a different yardstick known as cost per wear.

Suppose the 40 dollar coat has thin seams and a zipper that tends to stick. It survives a single winter, and its owner wears it roughly 20 times. The 90 dollar coat, by contrast, has sturdy stitching and a thick lining. It lasts for three winters, and its owner wears it roughly 90 times. To determine the cost per wear, divide the price by the number of wears. For the cheaper coat, 40 divided by 20 is 2 dollars per wear. For the costlier coat, 90 divided by 90 is only 1 dollar per wear.

The expensive coat is therefore the better bargain, even though it demands more money on the first day. The cheaper coat must also be replaced sooner, which means paying a second time.

This idea does have its limits, however. A very costly coat that hangs unused in the closet has a high cost per wear, because the number of wears stays small. Moreover, a person who has only 40 dollars cannot spend 90, regardless of what the arithmetic says. Cost per wear works best as one useful question to ask, considered alongside the budget a person truly has.

Questions

1. What is the price of the first coat?

_____

_____

2. How is the cost per wear calculated?

_____

_____

3. What is the cost per wear of the 90 dollar coat in the example?

_____

_____

4. Why does the passage call the expensive coat the better bargain?

_____

_____

5. Why would an expensive coat left in the closet be a poor purchase?

_____

_____

6. Why can cost per wear not be the only consideration?

_____

_____

Words to know

seams: the lines where two pieces of cloth are sewn together
stitching: the thread that holds cloth together
bargain: something worth more than the money paid for it
budget: a plan for how much money you can spend

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Cost Per Wear: The Cheap Coat Trap

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Cost Per Wear: The Cheap Coat Trap

Easier · 178 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.5

1. 40 dollars.
2. Divide the price by the number of wears.
3. 1 dollar.
4. It lasts longer, so each wear costs less.
5. It is worn only a few times, so each wear costs a lot.
6. A person may not have enough money for the costly coat.

Triangle: Cost Per Wear: The Cheap Coat Trap

This passage · 213 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.1

1. 40 dollars.
2. Divide the price by the number of wears.
3. 1 dollar.
4. It lasts longer, so it costs less each time it is worn.
5. It is worn only a few times, so its cost per wear stays high.
6. A person may not have enough money to buy the costly coat at all.

Square: Cost Per Wear: The Cheap Coat Trap

Harder · 228 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.5

1. 40 dollars.
2. By dividing the price by the number of wears.
3. 1 dollar.
4. It lasts longer, so it costs less every time it is worn.
5. It is worn so few times that its cost per wear stays high.
6. A person may not have enough money to buy the costlier coat at all.