

Count On Change

Build the change and count up to the amount paid.

GRADE 3 • 3.NS.4.d

3.NS.4.d "Solve contextual problems to make change from \$5.00 or less by using counting on or counting back strategies with concrete or pictorial models."

NAME _____

DATE _____

Use play money for every purchase. Add each change coin or bill while saying the new total. Write the running totals and total change in dollar notation.

Materials and setup

Per pair: 2 play \$1 bills, 4 quarters, 5 dimes, 2 nickels and 10 pennies. Reuse them after each task. Take turns buying and checking.

Stop exactly at the amount paid. Trade for smaller coins when needed. Check that price plus change equals the amount paid.

Stop at the amount paid

Start at the price. Add change coins or bills one at a time. Say each new total and stop at the amount paid, even before the next whole dollar. The money added is the change.

Try it together

A bookmark costs \$1.45. You pay \$3.00. Lay out change while counting on.

A completed count

Record	My result
Start at the price	\$1.45
Add a nickel	\$1.50
Add a quarter	\$1.75
Add a quarter	\$2.00
Add a \$1 bill	\$3.00

Add a nickel, two quarters and a dollar bill while saying the listed totals. The added money is 5 cents + 25 cents + 25 cents + 100 cents. Change: \$1.55. Stop at \$3.00.

1. Pencil purchase

A pencil costs \$0.38. You pay \$0.90. Model and count on, then complete both records.

My count

Entry	My running totals and change
Count	
Change	

2. Sticker purchase

A sticker sheet costs \$1.26. You pay \$2.25. Model the change. Write the running totals and change.

3. Juice purchase

A juice box costs \$2.08. You pay \$2.50. Model the change. Write the running totals and change.

4. Toy purchase

A small toy costs \$3.47. You pay \$5.00. Model and count on, then complete both records.

My count

Entry	My running totals and change
Count	
Change	

5. Game pass

Malik buys a game pass for \$2.67 and pays \$4.00. Be the cashier: model and hand him his change while counting on to \$4.00. Write each total and the change.

6. School store

Zoe buys an eraser for \$0.84 and pays \$1.75. Model the change and count on to \$1.75. Write each total and the change.

7. Two-item purchase

Noah pays \$5.00 for colored pencils costing \$2.14 and a notebook costing \$1.29. First write the total cost. Then model and count on to \$5.00. Write the running totals and total change.

Teacher notes

Check actual coins or play bills and the spoken running totals, not just a final answer. The key gives one valid count for each purchase; accept other exact counts using available denominations. Each listed total follows one added coin or bill. Use cents consistently if needed, then convert the final amount to dollar notation.

Task 1

Totals: \$0.39, \$0.40, \$0.65, \$0.90. Add 2 pennies and 2 quarters. Change: \$0.52.

Task 2

Totals: \$1.27, \$1.28, \$1.29, \$1.30, \$1.40, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.25. Add 4 pennies, 2 dimes and 3 quarters. Change: \$0.99.

Task 3

Totals: \$2.09, \$2.10, \$2.20, \$2.30, \$2.40, \$2.50. Add 2 pennies and 4 dimes. Change: \$0.42.

Task 4

Totals: \$3.48, \$3.49, \$3.50, \$3.75, \$4.00, \$5.00. Add 3 pennies, 2 quarters and 1 dollar bill. Change: \$1.53.

Task 5

Totals: \$2.68, \$2.69, \$2.70, \$2.80, \$2.90, \$3.00, \$4.00. Add 3 pennies, 3 dimes and 1 dollar bill. Change: \$1.33.

Check in cents: $267 + 133 = 400$. The change is \$1.33.

Task 6

Totals: \$0.85, \$0.90, \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75. Add 1 penny, 1 nickel, 1 dime and 3 quarters. Change: \$0.91.

Check in cents: $84 + 91 = 175$. The change is \$0.91.

Task 7

Total cost: \$3.43. Totals: \$3.44, \$3.45, \$3.50, \$3.75, \$4.00, \$5.00. Add 2 pennies, 1 nickel, 2 quarters and 1 dollar bill. Change: \$1.57.