

# Time to Choose!

**P**icture this: You've just received \$10 as a birthday gift. There are so many things you want to buy. You make a list. Pretty soon, you realize \$10 won't be enough for everything. You need to make choices.

Here are questions to ask as you decide what to do:

- ✓ What are the things I really **need**? What are the things I really **want**?
- ✓ What's most important on my list?
- ✓ Is the amount of money I plan to spend worth it?

By determining your **needs** and **wants** and ranking them, you're taking an important step in managing your money. You've also begun to create a **budget**. A budget is a **planning** tool. You set it up to help you make spending decisions.

## Needs and Wants

A **need** is something that is essential. Food, clothing, and shelter are needs. A **want** is something that you would like to have. Wants aren't needs.

## Making Decisions

Alex has \$3.50 to spend for three new folders he needs for school. He likes a blue folder with a shiny cover that costs \$1.15. The same blue folder with a plain cover costs 99 cents. What are some of the choices Alex could make?

## Try It Yourself!

Create a budget for yourself! Look on the back cover for a cool budget planner to take home and fill out with your family!



# Number Crunchers

Anna has \$10 of birthday money. On the left is a list of items she is considering buying:

1. If Anna were to buy an ice cream cone, a book, and a magazine, what percent of her \$10 would she have spent?  
(A) 75%      (B) 77.5%      (C) 75.5%
2. Anna decides on a book, a magazine, and colored pencils, but then decides she wants a nameplate. Which of the following could she do?  
(A) Put back the book      (B) Put back the colored pencils  
(C) Put back the magazine
3. If Anna wants to save 50% of her \$10 for later, how much should she set aside?  
(A) \$2.00      (B) \$5.00      (C) \$3.75

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## Paper Puzzler

Mrs. Young has asked students to help her figure out costs for a monthly paper budget.

Color paper cost = \$6.30 per package (200 sheets)

Copier paper cost = \$4.50 per package (500 sheets)

If the class budget is for 400 sheets of color paper and 1,000 sheets of copier paper each month, what is the:

Monthly budget figure for color paper: \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly budget figure for copier paper: \_\_\_\_\_

Total monthly budget: \_\_\_\_\_

