

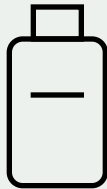
The Cheapest Thing Costs More

25 minutes | Beginner | Pencil and calculator

Four years of use. Invented prices and lifetimes. No repair costs.

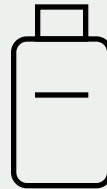
BOTTLE A

\$8 upfront
Lasts 1 year(s)



BOTTLE B

\$22 upfront
Lasts 4 year(s)



ANALYZE: MARK EACH PURCHASE ON THE TIMELINE

A

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

B

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Choose > Test: total A \$____; total B \$____; difference \$____.

You have \$10 today. What can you afford? What tradeoff remains?

Reflect: B is lost and replaced once. New total? New decision?

Explain it. Try it with permission. Teach someone else.

The Cheapest Thing Costs More

10-12 | Strategists | Money | Keep this page separate from the challenge

WHAT THIS BUILDS

Comparing choices, explaining tradeoffs, and checking assumptions before spending.

ANSWERS AND REASONING

A: $4 \times \$8 = \32 . B: $1 \times \$22 = \22 . Difference \$10. With \$10 today, only A is affordable. One replacement B makes \$44, assuming that replacement lasts through year four.

SUPPORT AND BOUNDARIES

These are invented lifetimes and prices, not product claims. Distinguish affordability today from cost over time. A durability estimate can be wrong.

REAL-WORLD MISSION

Compare two products without buying them. Record upfront cost, likely replacement needs, and one missing piece of evidence.

GROWN-UP DISCOVERY

Lifetime cost rests on assumptions. Ask: What cheap purchase became expensive?

AFTER THE MISSION

One thing we noticed: _____

One thing we would try differently: _____

Child: I can explain it / I want another practice / I need help.