Using percentages

1 Have you noticed that some shops always seem to be having a sale? When you first look at the sale sign below, you might think that everything at Ben's Bike Shop is discounted by 30%. But how do you know that this is probably not the case?

2 Many of the items at Ben's Bike Shop only have a 10% discount, including the following two helmets.

a The original price of the helmet is $20. What is the sale price?

b The original price of the helmet is $24.99. What is the sale price?

(continued)

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Activity sheet 14

3 Some percentage discounts are easy to calculate, such as the 10% discount in question 2. To calculate a discount of 10%, you just divide the original price by 10.

Other amounts can be a bit trickier. If you wanted to calculate 30% of something, you can find 10% and then multiply the answer by 3.

Imagine that Ben's Bike Shop changed the discount on the helmets to 30%. What would be the new price of:

a the red helmet?

b the blue helmet?

4 Explain how you could find the following percentage discounts (without using a calculator).

a 20%

b 40%

c 60%

d 70%

5

This cycling uniform is sold at Ben's Bike Shop. The price tags show the original price of each item. Find the new price of:

a the sunglasses with 40% discount.

b the shirt with 20% discount.

c the gloves with 70% discount.

d the shorts with 60% discount.

(continued)

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Activity sheet 14

6 The shop offers the cycling uniform at 50% discount, if everything is bought at the same time. Would it be cheaper to buy everything separately or as a complete package?

7 Imagine you wanted to buy the bike below, as well as the cycling uniform. Ben's Bike Shop and Glenn's Bike Shop are offering the following specials.

- Ben's Bike Shop is offering 20% discount on the bike and the same deal from question 6 on the cycling uniform.
- Glenn's Bike Shop is offering a package deal of 30% off the total original price of the cycling uniform and the bike.

$299.99

Which shop has the better deal?

8 Knowledge of percentages is not only useful, it can also be fun! For example, did you know that:

- 80% of your body heat disappears out of the top of your head?
- 15% of all the world's languages are spoken in Papua New Guinea?
- male lions only do about 10% of the hunting in their pride?

This sort of information is called trivia. Lots of trivial facts include percentages. Find some facts of your own and make a display called "My list of percentage trivia".

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