

24 Ways to Use the News in Secondary Mathematics

- 1) Check your local newspaper to learn the cost of a classified ad and then determine the cost of different sized ads in that section. Write an ad that you would like to place in the newspaper and figure out how much it would cost to do so.
- 2) Using a ruler, figure out the percentage of space on a given page for ads, pictures, stories and headlines.
- 3) On the front page of your newspaper, circle all the numbers you can find and give the range. Determine also the mean, median and mode.
- 4) Find a recipe you like in the newspaper and then go to the food ads and figure the approximate cost of the recipe's ingredients.
- 5) Look for examples in the newspaper of items that could illustrate the concept of congruence. Explain your reasoning.
- 6) Determine the ratio of sales jobs to factory jobs in the classified ads.
- 7) Using the marriage announcements, calculate the average age of marriage for both men and women. Do this over a period of six weeks, and create a chart and graph with your results.
- 8) Newspaper photos are not always the same size as the size that shows up in the newspaper. Reduce and enlarge the pictures according to the specifications you desire.
- 9) Read your newspaper's birth announcements and obituaries. Figure out the ratio of births to deaths on a given day and the ratio of births of boys to girls.
- 10) Using the classified ads in your newspaper, find the average prices of similar recreational vehicles, such as boats, motorcycles, campers, etc.
- 11) Locate sentence or paragraphs in news stories which could be rewritten in the "if...then" formula.
- 12) After the teacher has blacked out the actual costs of items in several display ads, students should then estimate the costs of products and services shown.
- 13) Identify in your newspaper examples of perpendicular, parallel and intersecting lines.
- 14) In the classified ads find 10 used cars that's mileage is given. Change the miles to kilometers. With those same 10 used car ads, figure out the average price and average model year.
- 15) In the newspaper, find and circle words that illustrate the concepts of size, location, time, quantity, value and money.
- 16) Figure out the square footage in your classroom for the floor, walls, ceilings and windows. Using the newspaper, find ads for paint, carpet or tile and draperies and determine the amount of each you would need and how much it would cost.
- 17) Write an editorial stating why you believe the United States should or should not change to the metric system.
- 18) Choose a recipe in your newspaper and convert all the measurements to metric.
- 19) Research the monetary units of a foreign country and then change the prices in 10 display ads in your newspaper into that foreign country's currency.
- 20) Look for a grocery ad with soft drinks for sale. Figure out how many fluid ounces are in the advertised size (six-pack, 2 liter, etc.). Break it down into pints, quarts, gallons and liters.
- 21) Collect newspaper ads that encourage savings. Paste them onto one page and discuss which ones are the best and worst ideas.
- 22) Select three apartments listed in the classified ads for rent. Do the following for each apartment: Compute the total rent for a year.; Determine the average monthly rent on the three apartments you have chosen.; Tell which one appears to be the best choice and why.
- 23) Look at the sports pages of your newspaper and check the percentages of games won and lost to make sure they are correct.
- 24) Create your very own picnic menu. Then look through the grocery ads and calculate how much your menu will cost.