

Pinching Pennies

That loose change is starting to pile up around your house. You decide to take a coin purse on your next shopping trip. It has pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and half-dollars in it.

1. You find an item that costs under 50 cents. You determine that you can pay for 4 of them with six U.S. coins. You could also buy either one or three of this item and pay with only 4 coins, but to pay for two of this same item, you need 7 coins! What does this item cost?

2. There is another inexpensive item in the store. You can purchase four of them with only 3 coins, but to buy three of them you need 4 coins. Not only that — to buy two of this item you need five coins, and to pay for just one of these, you need six coins. How much is this item?



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Solutions

1. 22 cents
2. 19 cents