

Biggest Rip-Offs Bulletin Board Kit

Directions:

- Print the following pages on any color paper.
It is best to use card stock as it is thicker than regular paper.
- Cut the pieces out according to how you would like to design your bulletin board.
For example, if you would like to place the tips all over the board in no particular order, cut each piece out so you have 26 individual pieces.
- It is recommended to use tissue paper for the bulletin board background.
Tissue paper is inexpensive and can be found in many colors and designs.
- Use staples or push pins to secure items to the bulletin board.

Watch

Out!

The

Biggest

Money

Rip-Offs



Movie Theater Popcorn



Markup = 900%

Their cost is \$0.60 and they charge you \$6.00.

You've been cheated out of:

\$5.40



\$\$ Saving Tip:

Skip the pricey movie theater all together. Rent DVDs at Love Library for FREE and pop some microwave popcorn.



Name Brand Painkillers



Markup = 60%

Advil's logo costs \$8.49 versus the same generic product at \$5.29.

You've been cheated out of:

\$3.20



\$\$ Saving Tip:

Get your prescriptions at the UNL Health Center. Know generic products usually work just as well as name brand products.

“Free” Credit Report



Markup = 100%

At Freecreditreport.com, instead of a free report, you are entered into an agreement to pay \$180 per year.

You've been cheated out of:

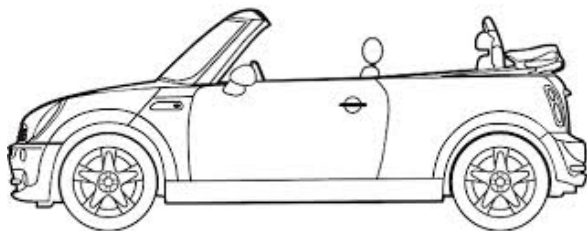
\$180

\$\$ Saving Tip:

Get a truly free credit report (a history of how you've handled credit, or borrowed money) at: AnnualCreditReport.com.



Oil Changes



Markup = 80%

Most cars don't need the “high performance” oil option, which is more expensive than regular oil.

You've been cheated out of:

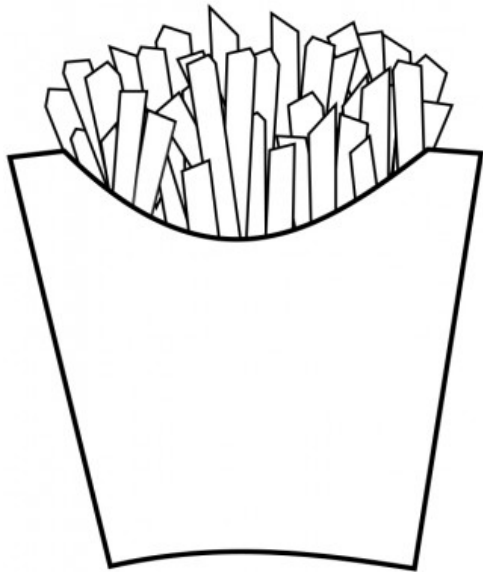
\$20

\$\$ Saving Tip:

Check your car manual to see if you really need special oil, or if regular oil is what your car really needs.



Fast Food French Fries



Markup = 3900%

A classic example of how expensive fast food is - a pound of fries costs the restaurant \$0.15. You are charged at least \$6.00 per pound of fries you eat.

You've been cheated out of:

\$5.85

\$\$ Saving Tip:

Use your meal plan! Always have snacks, like trail mix, in your dorm room for late night snacks!



Restaurant Coffee



Markup = 390%

You can estimate that if you brew your own cup at home, the cost will be about \$0.50, compared to the \$2.45 grande coffee at a famous coffee chain.

You've been cheated out of:

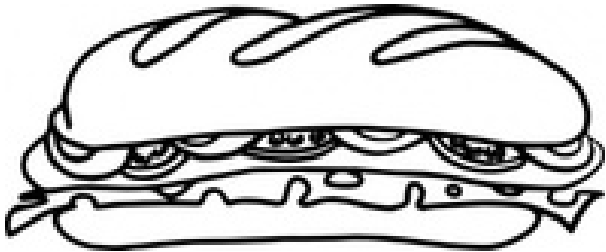
\$1.95

\$\$ Saving Tip:

Get in the habit of brewing your own coffee! Invest in a coffeepot, or a single-serve Keurig.



Prepackaged Deli Meat



Markup = 27%

It can pay to go to the deli counter! One store charges \$4.29 for a 4-ounce package of salami. The same meat (likely fresher) at the deli counter: \$13.49 per pound, or \$3.37 for 4 ounces.

You've been cheated out of:

\$0.92



\$\$ Saving Tip:

Be careful when grocery shopping. Take your time to comparison shop!

Premium Gas



Markup = 15%

Most cars don't need the special premium gas. It usually costs \$0.20 to \$0.40 cents more per gallon.

You've been cheated out of:

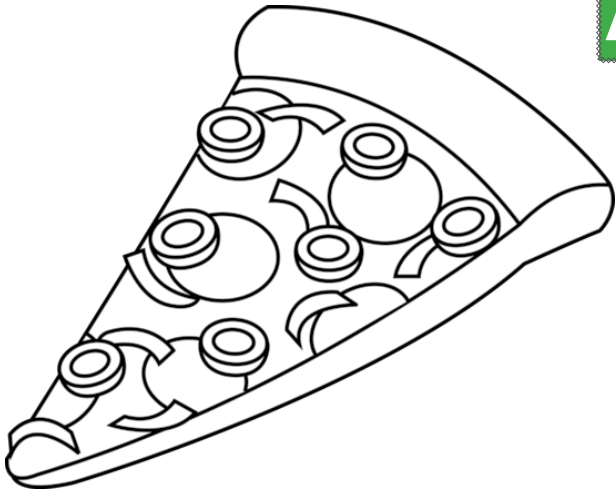
\$4.80



\$\$ Saving Tip:

Read your owner's manual. Some high performance cars may need special gas, but the average car does not!

All You Can Eat Buffets



Markup = 50%

The average buffet charges around \$12.00 per meal. And sure, you can eat all you want but the owner knows that most stomachs can't hold more than \$8.00 worth of food.

You've been cheated out of:

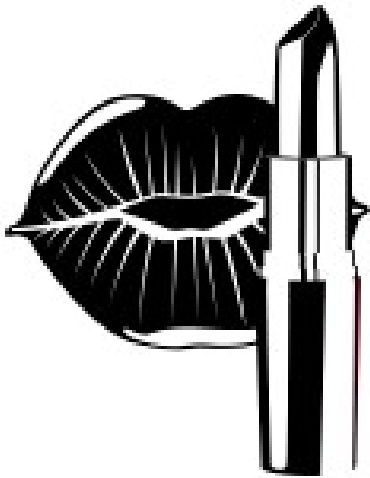
\$4.00



\$\$ Saving Tip:

Learn how to cook and save yourself thousands throughout your life.

Designer Makeup



Markup = 450%

Mascara will expire in three months, whether you buy it from CVS or Chanel. When deciding how much to spend, think about the lifetime of each item. Case in point: Drug store mascara will cost you about \$.06 per use, whereas Chanel will cost you about \$0.33 cents—and you probably won't finish using either before the expiration date.

You've been cheated out of:

\$25.11



\$\$ Saving Tip:

Splurge on items that will last forever. Save on items with a short shelf life.

Greeting Cards



Markup = 200%

Greeting cards average \$5.00, but cost only \$1.70 to make. They get you to buy these by offering very expensive versions, \$8.00, and less expensive, \$0.99. We tend to get the mid-priced version.

You've been cheated out of:

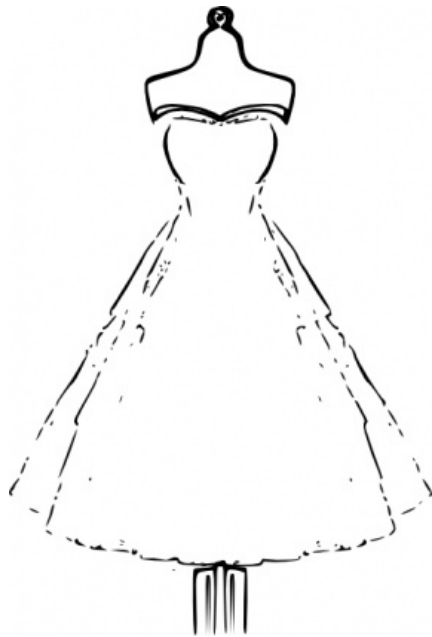
\$4.30



\$\$ Saving Tip:

Make your own greeting cards or buy cards at Dollar Tree for \$.50

Brand Name Clothing



Markup = 750%

It's true we are all victims of marketing. If a brand is deemed "cool," we will dish out the dough. Take for example, a shirt with the right logo that costs us \$60.00, but costs the business \$7.00 to make.

You've been cheated out of:

\$53.00



\$\$ Saving Tip:

Shop for quality clothing that looks good on you, regardless of what the label says.



Restaurant Soft Drinks



Markup = 1875%

A glass of pop costs a restaurant \$0.15 and sells for \$2.95.

You've been cheated out of:

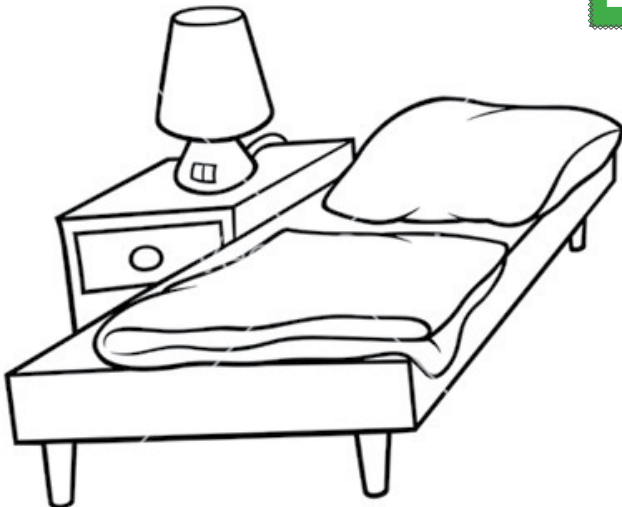
\$2.80



\$\$ Saving Tip:

Try to get into the habit of drinking water when eating out. It will save you thousands throughout your life.

Mattresses & Furniture



Markup = 20%

These items are usually marked up in order to produce a commission for the salesman. Buying a bed for \$299.00? It's likely your salesman is making \$49.00 off the sale.

You've been cheated out of:

\$49.00



\$\$ Saving Tip:

Do your research before shopping for big items. 15 mins. of research can save you \$\$\$!

Unnecessary Student Loans



Markup = 38%

If you take out \$5,000 more in student loans than you really need, you'll pay \$1,900 in interest charges.

You've been cheated out of:

\$1,900



\$\$ Saving Tip:

Only borrow what you absolutely need! Everyone should try to graduate college with the least amount of debt possible so you can start saving and retire early!

Credit Card Debt



Markup = 27%

You use a credit card to purchase \$300 worth of stuff and can only make the minimum payments.

You've been cheated out of:

\$81.00

\$\$ Saving Tip:

Before you whip out the credit card, make sure you can pay your bill in full at the end of the month to avoid wasting money on interest!



The Biggest UNL Rip-Off? Not Taking Advantage of the UNL Student Money Management Center!



Free Money Mentoring Appointments

- * Spending Plans
- * Organizing Finances
- * Saving Money
- * Investment Education
- * Employee Benefits
- * Financial Goals
- * Establishing Credit
- * Debt Repayment
- * Understanding Financial Aid
- * Major Purchases

These services are free of charge for UNL students.

Schedule your appointment at:

www.unl.edu/smmc



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