

Easy English Stories – Episode 12: *How Much Is It?*

Target Level: Move 3 and up

Grammar: Asking about prices using *How much is it?* / *How much are they?*; counting simple amounts of money; expressing decisions with *Maybe later*

Vocabulary: sale, sticker, customer, basket, sign, trunk, free, expensive

Functions: Asking for prices, making simple choices while shopping, responding politely to costs

INTRODUCTION

C.S.: Hello, boys and girls! I'm Captain Story, and this is Easy English Stories!

Echo: Hello, Captain Story. You look... sad.

C.S.: I *am* sad!

Echo: Why?

C.S.: I went to buy a banana this morning...

C.S.: I said, "How much is it?"

Echo: And?

C.S.: And the shopkeeper said, "It is... fifty dollars!"

Echo: Fifty dollars for a banana?

C.S.: Yes! I said, "Is this banana made of gold?"

Echo: Maybe it can fly.

C.S.: No, Echo.

Echo: Captain, how much is our podcast?

C.S.: It's free, Echo. You can listen for free.

Echo: I like free things.

C.S.: Me too.

MAIN STORY: *How Much Is It?*

C.S.: One Saturday morning, Sandy and her uncle are going to the market. Sandy is carrying five dollars because she wants to buy a birthday gift for her mother.

They stop at a fruit shop. Sandy holds an apple and asks, "How much is it?"
The shopkeeper says, "It's one dollar."
Sandy says, "Hmm... maybe later."

C.S.: Next, Sandy looks at a toy shop. The shop has little dolls, mini puzzles, and small toy cars.
She picks up a little doll. "How much is it?" she asks.
The man says, "Two dollars."
Sandy says, "Maybe later."

Echo: Maybe later.

C.S.: Then she sees a big basket full of colorful stickers—cats, dogs, stars, and fruits.
"How much are these stickers?" she asks.
"They're three dollars," says the woman.

Sandy counts her money.
"One, two, three, four, five dollars... maybe later."

Echo: Maybe later.

C.S.: Sandy starts to look sad. But then—she sees a small sign in the last shop. The sign says:
SURPRISE SALE! JUST ASK "HOW MUCH IS IT?"

C.S.: Sandy picks up a little red heart bag.
"How much is it?" she asks.

The old shopkeeper smiles.
"For you... it's one dollar."

Sandy smiles big. She gives the money and takes the bag.

But then she sees something very funny; two purple socks with dancing bananas.

Echo: A pair of socks.

C.S.: Yes. Sandy asks, "How much are these socks?"
The man laughs. "For you? They are free!"

Sandy is very happy. She asks, "Free? Why?"

The old man says, "They're free because you are my first customer."

Echo: Captain, you are smiling.

C.S.: Yes, Echo. I like free things.

Now Sandy is walking home with her uncle. She is holding her mother's gifts—the bag and the socks. She says, "I had five dollars... and now I still have four! What a great day!"

PRACTICE

C.S.: Ready to practice, boys and girls? Please repeat after us!

C.S.: How much is this bag?

Echo: How much is this bag?

C.S.: It's one dollar.

Echo: It's one dollar.

C.S.: How much are these stickers?

Echo: How much are these stickers?

C.S.: They're three dollars.

Echo: They're three dollars.

Q&A + Fun Fact

C.S.: Now it's question time!

Child 1: Captain Story, why do children go to school?

C.S.: Children go to school to learn to read, to write... and to drive their teachers crazy.

Child 2: Captain Story, why do elephants have big ears?

C.S.: I think they want to hear what all the other animals are talking about.

Child 3: Captain Story, why does an elephant have a long nose?

C.S.: Uh. Maybe elephants can't smell well, so they need a very, very long trunk.

C.S.: And now, Echo, the fun fact!

Echo: Do you know how much the most expensive pizza in the world is?

C.S.: Hmm... I don't know. Maybe... twenty dollars?

Echo: No! It is twelve thousand dollars.

C.S.: Twelve thousand?!

Echo: Yes. It has gold on it.

C.S.: But that's expensive! My house is not twelve thousand dollars! Well, boys and girls, thank you for listening. Please join us next week for another story.

Echo: Captain Story... I want to eat a twelve-thousand-dollar pizza!

C.S.: Uh... maybe later.

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