

The value of objects in Wendat

The Wendat people estimated the value of objects by making reference to the relative size of a stick. Therefore,

**Yaentowänenh** *'it is of great value (lit. the stick is big)'*

**Te'yaentowänenh** *'it is not of great value (lit. the stick is not big)'*

When European money appeared in the 17th century, certain valuable objects in Wendat society became used as terms for monetary units. For our ancestors, fish scales, shells, wampum, glass, and fur were of great value. The noun root **-hwihst-** *'fish scales'* was therefore used for coins (as well as for metal in general), whereas the noun root **-ndehw-** *'beaver pelt'* was associated with the dollar.

**Tho iöhwihstayeh?** *'How many cents is it?'*

**Tho iyändehwayeh?** *'How many dollars is it?'*

To say the price of an object, we follow the template below:

[Number + iyändehwayeh] **CHIA'** [Number + iöhwihstayeh]  
*'to be so many dollars' 'and' 'to be so many cents'*

**NOTE THESE EXCEPTIONS:**

- If there is only a **single dollar**, we use the term **skändehwat** *'it is one dollar'*;
- If there are only **2 dollars**, we use the term **teyändehwayeh** *'it is two dollars'*;
- If there is only **one cent**, we use the term **skahwihstat** *'it is one cent'*;
- If there are only **2 cents**, we use the term **teohwihstayeh** *'it is two cents'*.

## Exercises

No. 1 Write the price in Wendat.

a) \$2.40

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b) \$57.10

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c) \$3.03

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d) \$100

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e) \$79.02

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f) \$2,000.36

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g) \$45.45

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h) \$1.50

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**No. 2** Write the price.

a) Teyändehwayeh chia' ahchienhk iwahsenh iöhwhistayeh

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b) Skwahcharat iyändehwayeh chia' tsoutare' iwahsenh ndahk iskare' iöhwhistayeh

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c) En'tron' iwahsenh en'tron' iskare' iyändehwayeh chia' en'tron' iwahsenh a'tere' iskare' iöhwhistayeh

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d) Ahsenh wihch iskare' iyändehwayeh chia' skahwihstat

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e) Tëndih tewahsenh tëndih teskare' iyändehwayeh chia' ahsenh tëndih teskare' iöhwhistayeh

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f) A'tere' iwahsenh ndahk iskare' iyändehwayeh chia' ndahk iwahsenh tsoutare' iskare' iöhwhistayeh

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g) En'niot iwahsenh skat iskwahsenhchare' ndahk iskare' iyändehwayeh chia' teohwhistayeh

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h) Skändehwat chia' skahwihstat

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No. 3 Write the price in Wendat<sup>1</sup>.



**Yänionhra'**

\$82.02



**Yenkwará'**

\$30.22



**Yahonwa'**

\$100.85



**Yahiatonhkwa'**

\$1.01



**Yängwahi'tsa'**

\$26.00



**Yända'tara'**

\$6.75



**Yarenhsa'**

\$2.40



**Yända'tsa'**

\$57.99

a) Ta'oh't iöerha' yända'tara'?

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b) Ta'oh't iöerha' yarenhsa'?

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c) Ta'oh't iöerha' yahonwa'?

\_\_\_\_\_

d) Ta'oh't iöerha' yänionhra'?

\_\_\_\_\_

e) Ta'oh't iöerha' yenkwará'?

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f) Ta'oh't iöerha' yända'tsa'?

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g) Ta'oh't iöerha' yahiatonhkwa'?

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h) Ta'oh't iöerha' yängwahi'tsa'?

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<sup>1</sup> Credits for all of the images used in this document can be found in the online dictionary entries.

*Answer Key*

**No. 1** Write the price in Wendat.

- a) Teyändehwayeh chia' ndahk iwahsenh iöhwihstayeh
- b) Wihch iwahsenh tsoutare' iskare' iyändehwayeh chia' ahsenh iöhwihstayeh
- c) Ahchienhk iyändehwayeh chia' ahchienhk iöhwihstayeh
- d) En'nioht iwahsenh iyändehwayeh
- e) Tsoutare' iwahsenh en'tron' iskare' iyändehwayeh chia' teohwihstayeh
- f) Tewahcharayeh iyändehwayeh chia' ahchienhk iwahsenh wahia' iskare' iöhwihstayeh
- g) Ndahk iwahsenh wihch iskare' iyändehwayeh chia' ndahk iwahsenh wihch iskare' iöhwihstayeh
- h) Skändehwat chia' wihch iwahsenh

**No. 2** Write the price.

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| a) \$2.30     | e) \$22.12  |
| b) \$1,000.74 | f) \$84.47  |
| c) \$99.98    | g) \$114.02 |
| d) \$15.01    | h) \$1.01   |

**No. 3** Write the price in Wendat.

- a) Iöerha' wahia' iyändehwayeh chia' tsoutare' iwahsenh wihch iskare' iöhwihstayeh
- b) Iöerha' teyändehwayeh chia' ndahk iwahsenh iöhwihstayeh
- c) Iöerha en'niot iwahsenh iyändehwayeh chia' a'tere' iwahsenh wihch iskare' iöhwihstayeh
- d) Iöerha' a'tere' iwahsenh tëndih teskare' iyändehwayeh chia' teohwihstayeh
- e) Iöerha' ahchienhk iwahsenh iyändehwayeh chia' tëndih tewahsenh tëndih teskare' iöhwihstayeh
- f) Iöerha' wihch iwahsenh tsoutare' iskare' iyändehwayeh chia' en'tron' iwahsenh en'tron' iskare' iöhwihstayeh
- g) Iöerha' skändehwat chia' skahwihstat
- h) Iöerha' tëndih tewahsenh wahia' iskare' iyändehwayeh