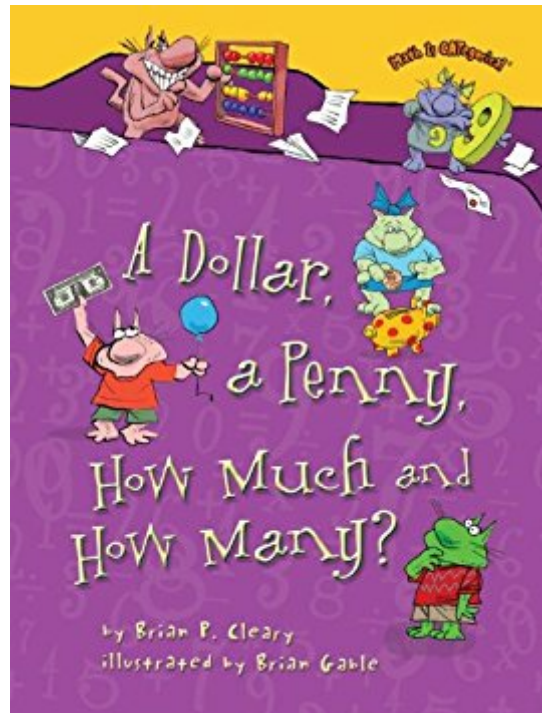


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# A Dollar, A Penny, How Much And How Many? (Math Is Categorical)



## Customer Reviews

A totally rad CATegorical cat teacher points to her easel which claims that a fraction is "A part of a whole number." A fraction of an orange may be called a section or a portion, but when you look at a part of a cake you might call it a piece. We've all seen fractions, but don't always call them that. If you have a pizza you can cut it any way you like. If you ate the whole thing you'd be a bit selfish, but you could share and cut it in as many pieces as you wanted. "But let's say that it's cut in  $2 /$  and you pick up 1 slice. If you've got 1 piece out of 2, / it's  $1/2$  to be precise." You'll learn how  $1/2$  and  $2/4$  are the very same thing because a CATegorical pizza chef will show you. CATegorical soccer players, colorful jugglers, and politicians will show you how other fractions work. You'll even learn a simple way that you can use fractions when you count cat uncles, but better yet, you'll see many fractions when the cat chefs are baking. Everyone has to use fractions when they bake. Was that  $1/2$  cup of flour or  $2/3$ ? If you don't know what those numbers mean the cats will show you what a numerator and a denominator are. In the back of the book you'll see twelve pie charts that you can look at that will show you several different kinds of fractions. The CATegorical cats introduce a FUN and easy way for young students to learn fractions. The zany cats are at it again with their madcap way of helping everyone learn math without struggling. The visuals make it easy to understand the concept of fractions. There are the usual pizza examples, but also unusual ones. For example, "Pretend you have 3 uncles and 2 came for a visit. That would mean  $2/3$  were there. Now that's not so hard now, is it?"

Let's face it, some children just don't care much for math, but when you have a series like Math is CATegorical, even the most reluctant student can become interested. Learning "the basics of bills and coins" doesn't have to be difficult or end up as drudgery, especially when the CATegorical cats step up to the plate and introduce young readers to the subject. In the beginning of each book one of the cats stands in front of an easel pointing to the main lesson youngsters will be introduced to in the book. This time, of course, it's "Money: the coins and bills people use to buy things." A little bit of zany, Cleary's inimitable verse, and the facts go a long way to helping introduce the topic. Concepts such as the value of coins sometimes can be difficult, but when the CATs claim that "Pennies each are worth 1 cent. / A nickel is worth 5. / It takes 10 cents to make a dime. / A quarter's 25." makes things seem much easier. The artwork is vibrant, colorful and the verse peppy and fun. When the cats head to the Dollar Daze, it's quite easy to understand how many quarters, dimes, pennies, or a combination thereof make up a dollar. "Zack hands over 7 dimes, / 1 quarter, plus 5 pennies. / all these combinations prove / to be the same as Jenny's." Common bills from the one to the twenty

and U.S. coins from the penny to the quarter are pictured and discussed. This is a marvelous and somewhat zany introduction to the basics of money for the young reader. I've read several in this particular series and each one carries that fun stamp that children enjoy. The age range for this series ranges from such beginning mathematical concepts of pattern play to the more complex function of fractions. Hands-on lessons can begin as early as kindergarten with play money.

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