

## Combien coûte?

**Grades:** Intermediate French

**Overview:** A lesson on the euro provides the opportunity to address a number of world language standards while teaching across the curriculum. Use this activity as an opportunity to introduce or practice chapter or unit vocabulary, numbers, and phrases while integrating cultural studies and math skills.

**Time:** 20-45 minutes

### Objectives:

- ◆ Communication. Have the student engage in conversation using the target vocabulary and grammar structure while discussing prices in euro.
- ◆ Interpretation. Have the student engage in listening and writing skills related to the above topics.
- ◆ Culture. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the monetary unit euro and foreign exchange rate used in the target culture.
- ◆ Connections. The student will use math to convert prices from euro to US\$.

### Materials Needed:

- The “EURO: Money Changes Everything” paper [available here](#).
- Euro images, available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/euro/notes\\_and\\_coins/notes\\_coins\\_main\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/euro/notes_and_coins/notes_coins_main_en.htm).
- Posters can be downloaded from the web site [www.eurunion.org](http://www.eurunion.org) (click on For Youth, Fun!, AudioVisual Library).
- Computer or newspaper on which to find current \$/€ exchange rate. It is available online at the Financial Times web site ([www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com))
- Target vocabulary, images of target vocabulary with prices (either from a textbook, compiled in a projected document, prepared by student research by shopping online or in a catalog);
- calculators; paper and pencil

### Procedure:

- 1) Review vocabulary words, using a student centered activity.
- 2) Introduce or review phrases “how much does it cost?” and “It costs...” in target language.
- 3) Implement intro to the euro as described in EURO paper.
- 4) Written exercise: Have students select a set number of items from those available with prices. Ask them to write on a piece of paper the item in the target language and its price in euros, then convert it to US\$ using the exchange rate. Students must use the equation  $xy$ , where  $x$ =the price in €, and  $y$ = the exchange rate €/€/\$.
- 5) Oral activity: Students go shopping. Give students a set amount of money, depending on the vocabulary set you are working with (10€/€, 100€/€, etc). Have students “buy” items from different classmates. One asks “How much does X cost” and the other

responds “X costs #€.” The students should record what they buy and from whom, how much it costs, and then calculate what is left. They shop until their allotment of funds is gone.

**Educational Content Standards**

World Language National Standard 1.1 (Communication)

World Language National Standard 1.2 (Interpretation)

World Language National Standard 2.1 (Culture)

World Language National Standard 3.1 (Connections)

**Follow Up Activities**

To integrate further study of the design of the euro and art, see the activity [“A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words.”](#)

Karen Boschker and Eric Sieberson

EU Center of Excellence, University of Washington, Seattle