

1. Several students decide to start a T-shirt company. After initial expenses of \$280, they purchase each T-shirt wholesale for \$3.99. They sell each T-shirt for \$10.99. How many T-shirts must they sell to break even?

Cost \$280 on time  
\$3.99 per t-shirt  
Income \$10.99 per t-shirt

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cost} &= 3.99x + 280 \\ \text{Income} &= 10.99x \\ 10.99x &= 3.99x + 280 \\ -3.99x &\quad -3.99x \\ \hline 7x &= 280 \\ \frac{7x}{7} &= \frac{280}{7} \\ x &= 40 \end{aligned}$$

40 t-shirts need to be sold to break even.

2. Suppose you are starting an office-cleaning service. You have spent \$315 on equipment. To clean an office, you use \$4 worth of supplies. You charge \$25 per office. How many offices must you clean to break even?

Cost \$315 on time  
\$4 per cleaning  
Income \$25 per cleaning

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cost} &= 4x + 315 \\ \text{Income} &= 25x \\ 25x &= 4x + 315 \\ -4x &\quad -4x \\ \hline 21x &= 315 \\ \frac{21x}{21} &= \frac{315}{21} \\ x &= 15 \end{aligned}$$

15 offices need to be cleaned to break even.

3. Suppose you invest \$1500 in equipment to put pictures on T-shirts. You buy each T-shirt for \$3. After you have placed the picture on a shirt, you sell it for \$20. How many T-shirts must you sell to break even?

Cost \$1500 one time  
\$3 per t-shirt  
Income \$20 per t-shirt

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cost} &= 3x + 1500 \\ \text{Income} &= 20x \\ 20x &= 3x + 1500 \\ -3x &\quad -3x \\ \hline 17x &= 1500 \\ \frac{17x}{17} &= \frac{1500}{17} \\ x &= 88.235 \end{aligned}$$

89 t-shirts need to be sold to break even