

1. Several students decide to start a T-shirt company. After initial expenses of \$150, they purchase each T-shirt wholesale for \$4.99. They sell each T-shirt for \$12.99. How many T-shirts must they sell to break even?

Cost \$150 on time
\$4.99 per t-shirt.
Income \$12.99 per t-shirt

19 t-shirts need to
sold to break even

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cost} &= 4.99x + 150 \\ \text{Income} &= 12.99x \\ 12.99x &= 4.99x + 150 \\ -4.99x &\quad -4.99x \\ \hline 8x &= 150 \\ \frac{8x}{8} &= \frac{150}{8} \\ x &= 18.75 \end{aligned}$$

2. Suppose you are starting an office-cleaning service. You have spent \$227 on equipment. To clean an office, you use \$3.50 worth of supplies. You charge \$30 per office. How many offices must you clean to break even?

Cost \$227 on time
\$3.50 per office
Income \$30 per office

9 offices need to
be cleaned to
break even

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cost} &= 3.50x + 227 \\ \text{Income} &= 30x \\ 30x &= 3.50x + 227 \\ -3.50x &\quad -3.50x \\ \hline 26.50x &= 227 \\ \frac{26.50x}{26.50} &= \frac{227}{26.50} \\ x &= 8.56 \end{aligned}$$

3. Suppose you invest \$1250 in equipment to put pictures on T-shirts. You buy each T-shirt for \$4.50. After you have placed the picture on a shirt, you sell it for \$19.50. How many T-shirts must you sell to break even?

Cost \$1250 on time
\$4.50 per t-shirt
Income \$19.50 per t-shirt

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

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cost} &= 4.50x + 1250 \\ \text{Income} &= 19.50x \\ 19.50x &= 4.50x + 1250 \\ -4.50x &\quad -4.50x \\ \hline 15x &= 1250 \\ \frac{15x}{15} &= \frac{1250}{15} \\ x &= 83.\bar{3} \end{aligned}$$