

EXAMPLE 4 Buying Generic Prescription Drugs

In the United States, prescription drugs are often expensive. You can usually save money by asking your doctor to prescribe a generic version of a drug. Here are some sample savings.



Condition	Monthly Cost for Brand-Name Drug	Monthly Cost for Generic Substitute
High blood pressure	\$128	\$13
High cholesterol	\$95	\$37
Depression	\$103	\$37
Arthritis pain	\$135	\$30
Heartburn	\$179	\$24

Which of these represents the greatest discount percent?

SOLUTION

A spreadsheet works well to organize the information in this problem.



DATA

Brand - Generic

Discount Brand

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Condition	Brand	Generic	Discount	Percent
2	High blood pressure	\$128.00	\$13.00	\$115.00	89.8%
3	High cholesterol	\$95.00	\$37.00	\$58.00	61.1%
4	Depression	\$103.00	\$37.00	\$66.00	64.1%
5	Arthritis pain	\$135.00	\$30.00	\$105.00	77.8%
6	Heartburn	\$179.00	\$24.00	\$155.00	86.6%
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The greatest discount percent is for the high blood pressure drug.

✓ Checkpoint

Help at Math.andYOU.com

Find the discount percents for the three drugs described in the article.

Crossing Borders for Prescription Drugs

Thousands of American seniors are going to Canada to stock up on something they can't seem to find at home—affordable prescription drugs.

Here are some examples. A stomach acid medication costs US\$129 in the US, but only US\$53 in Canada. An antihyperglycemic agent costs US\$52 in the US, but only US\$12 in Canada, Conjugated estrogens cost US\$26 in the US, but only US\$7 in Canada.