

A **unit rate** is a comparison to one unit. To write a unit rate, find an equivalent ratio with 1 as the denominator. You can use equal ratios to find unit rates. For the example above,

$$\frac{\text{Miles}}{\text{Hours}} \rightarrow \frac{100}{2} = \frac{50}{1}$$

The unit rate is 50 miles for each hour traveled. You can write 50 miles per hour or 50 mi/hr or  $50 \frac{\text{mi}}{\text{hr}}$ . The word *per* is often used in place of *for each*. You can abbreviate *per* with the / symbol.

### ACTIVITY Finding Unit Rates

Write unit rates for each of the following. The first one is done as an example.



- 1** Sale price: 5 cans for \$2

$$\frac{5 \text{ cans}}{2 \text{ dollars}} = \frac{2.5 \text{ cans}}{1 \text{ dollar}} = 2.5 \text{ cans/dollar}$$

- 2** Gas mileage: 78 miles using 3 gallons of gas

$$\frac{78 \text{ miles}}{3 \text{ gallons}} = \frac{? \text{ miles}}{1 \text{ gallon}} = ? \text{ mi/gal}$$

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