



Worksheet 21.3

Tit, tat, tariff

The United States is often pointed to as an example of a country enjoying the benefits of free trade with most of the world. What many don't realize, however, is that the US actually taxes almost everything it imports from abroad.

There is a publicly available schedule of all the tariff rates the US levies on imports from every imaginable category. It is available online [here](#).

Below is just one tiny section of the *75 page table of contents* of the 'Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States'.

<i>JOGGING SUITS knitted or crocheted</i>	6112.11-19
<i>JOINERY of wood, for builders</i>	4418
<i>JOINTS artificial</i>	9021.11
<i>JOJOBA OIL</i>	1515.90, 1516-1518
<i>JOKE ARTICLES</i>	9505.90
<i>JONGKONG</i>	Ch. 44
<i>JOURNALS</i>	49-3, 4902
<i>JUDO UNIFORMS of cotton</i>	6203.22, 6204.22
<i>JUICES fruit</i>	20-US1-3
<i>fruit and vegetable</i>	20-5, 2009.11-90
<i>meat, fish, or aquatic invertebrates</i>	1603.00
<i>JUMPSUITS men's or boys'</i>	6211.32-33
<i>women's or girls'</i>	6211.42-43
<i>JUNIPER seeds of</i>	0909.50

Each of the items above have their own section in the book, in which the tariff rates for imports of the item can be found. For example, 'Joke Articles' made overseas are levied a 70% tax before ending up in the hands of American consumers. But tariffs are no joke.



Economics

Follow the link to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States of America above and try to find out how much each of the following are taxed when being imported to the United States from abroad:

1. Women's or girls' suits, ensembles, suit-type jackets, blazers, dresses, skirts, divided skirts, trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts (other than swimwear) [Chapter 62, pg 62-41]
2. Umbrellas and sun umbrellas (including walking-stick umbrellas, garden umbrellas and similar umbrellas), Garden or similar umbrellas [Chapter 66]
3. Wall clocks, Electrically operated, With opto-electronic display only [Chapter 91, pg 91-25]
4. Find three other items that surprise you and identify the tariff rates the US charges for the import of them.