

# 6.RP Mangos for Sale

Alignments to Content Standards: 6.RP.A.2

## Task

A store was selling 8 mangos for \$10 at the farmers market.

Keisha said,

*“That means we can write the ratio 10 : 8, or \$1.25 per mango.”*

Luis said,

*“I thought we had to write the ratio the other way, 8 : 10, or 0.8 mangos per dollar.”*

Can we write different ratios for this situation? Explain why or why not.

## IM Commentary

The purpose of this task is to generate a classroom discussion about ratios and unit rates in context. Sometimes students think that when a problem involves ratios in a context, whatever quantity is written first should be the first quantity in the ratio  $a:b$ . However, because the context itself does not dictate the order, it is important to recognize that a given situation may be represented by more than one ratio. An example of this is any problem involving unit conversions; sometimes one wants 3 feet : 1 yard and the associated unit rate 3 feet per yard and sometimes one wants 1 yard :

3 feet and the associated unit rate  $\frac{1}{3}$  yard per foot.

A similar task that provides students an opportunity to choose between the two different ratios and associated unit rates based on their usefulness is in development.

[Edit this solution](#)

## **Solution**

Yes, this context can be modeled by both of these ratios and their associated unit rates. The context itself doesn't determine the order of the quantities in the ratio; we choose the order depending on what we want to know.



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