

# How to Build an Effective Offer System in Your Game

Discover how top games structure Offer System, what's new, and how to build a scalable system that performs.







# Playliner by Sensor Tower

**Playliner**, Sensor Tower's state-of-the-art platform for analyzing Live Ops, enables you to dive into a rich repository of events, updates, and monetization offers across hundreds of top games. Whether you're designing a new offering, reengaging existing players, or optimizing your monetization tactics, use **Playliner to secure your competitive edge in the mobile gaming world.**

This report gives you a preview of the rich insights available in-platform – use these evidence-based recommendations to move with confidence and revamp your strategy for 2026.



# WHY Do You Need an Offer System?

## LTV Maximization

### ARpU growth comes from multiple levers:

Conversion, Repeat Purchases, Average Transaction Value, Demand

## Segmentation & Personalization

While Shop covers basic, always-on needs

Offers deliver higher value, urgency, and personalization

Adaptive offers respond to player behavior, needs, and capacity to pay

## The goal is not just to sell

### A good offer system:

- Helps players overcome friction
- Supports progress at critical moments
- Feels like 'this is exactly what I need right now', not pressure



# Common Myths

## About Offers

✗ **The more offers you have, the better they perform**

- ✓ Players don't want *more* offers → They want the right offer, at the right moment, for the right reason

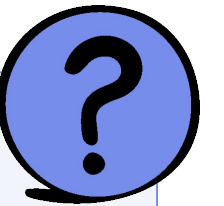
✗ **Cheaper offers always mean a better conversion strategy**

- ✓ Low entry price boosts conversion  
✓ However, some players are ready to pay more from the start  
✓ Starting too cheap hides willingness to pay and caps future spend

✗ **Players buy only emotionally – because of visuals and excitement**

✗ **Players buy only rationally – by calculating value and efficiency**

- ✓ Purchases happen at the intersection of emotion + calculation + context.  
✓ Visuals and presentation attract attention, while value is evaluated *intuitively*, not through deep calculations.



**So HOW do you avoid these mistakes, and build an effective offer system?**



# Core Building Blocks of an Offer System

1

## Offer Types & Visualization

What types of offers exist and what problem each one solves

2

## Triggers & Timing

When and why an offer appears

3

## Pricing Strategy

Increase when players are ready  
Roll back when they are not

4

## Segmentation & Personalization

Adapting offers to player behavior, context, and capacity to pay

5

## Offer Compatibility

Offers don't compete or cannibalize each other  
Clear comparison and value differentiation

6

## Economic Balance

Economy-aware design  
Controlled inflation and sustainable value

# Offer Types



**There are dozens of offer types on the market today.**

But that doesn't mean you need ALL of them.

**More offers  $\neq$  better performance.**

A strong system is built on a few types that work well together.

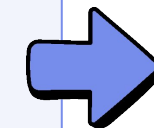
When choosing offer types, focus on:

**Your KPIs** – what exactly you want to improve (conversion, repeat rate, ARPPU)

**Visual variety** – to keep offers feeling fresh and 'new'

**System synergy** – offers should complement each other, not compete

Next, we'll break down the **TOP-performing offer types** and what makes them work.



# Login Offer

The simplest and most stable offer type

## Simple & focused

- One clear bundle
- No visual noise
- No competing choices

## Why it works

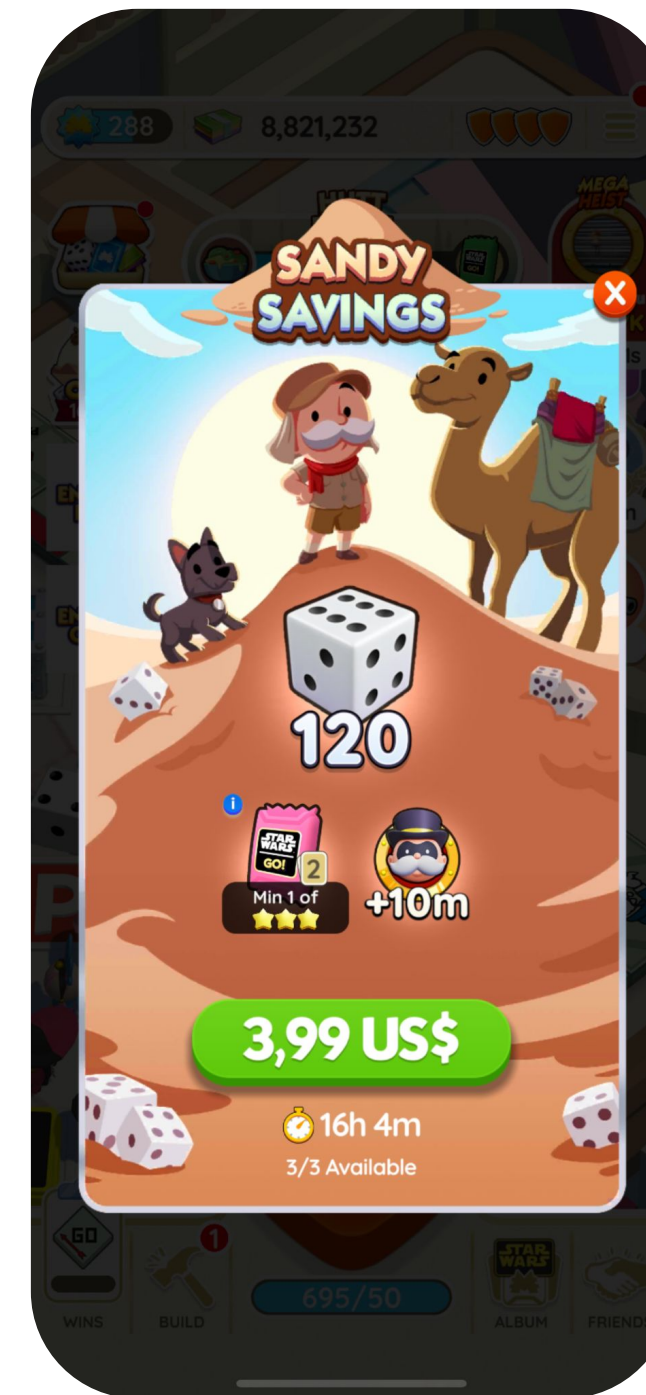
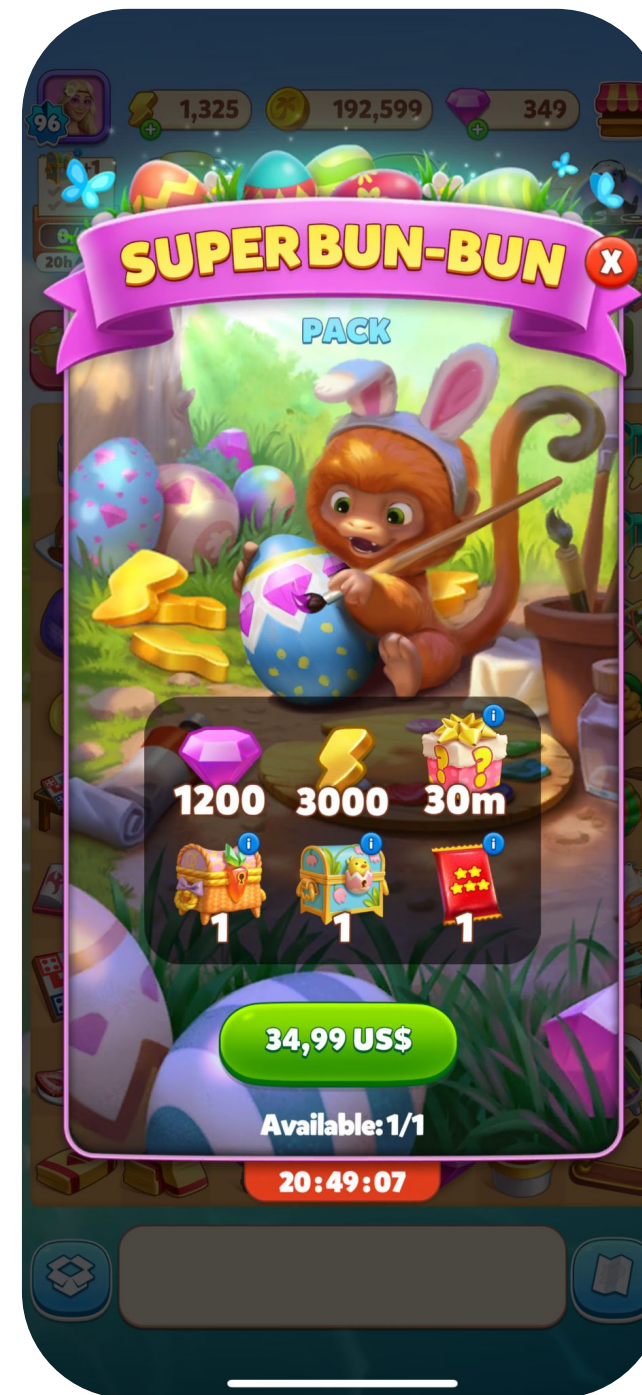
- Extremely effective with **Segmentation**
- Perfect fit for **Starter Packs**

## How it's used

- Shown at session start
- Or triggered by key moments (*return, cooldown, progression*)

## Role in the system

- Acts as the **baseline offer**
- A reference point for: pricing and value





# Triggered Offer

One of the top monetization touchpoints in most games

## Right place. Right moment:

- Appear exactly when the player hits friction

## Typical triggers:

- Level-based games → Revive / Play On pop-up
- Other genres → Out of Currency pop-up

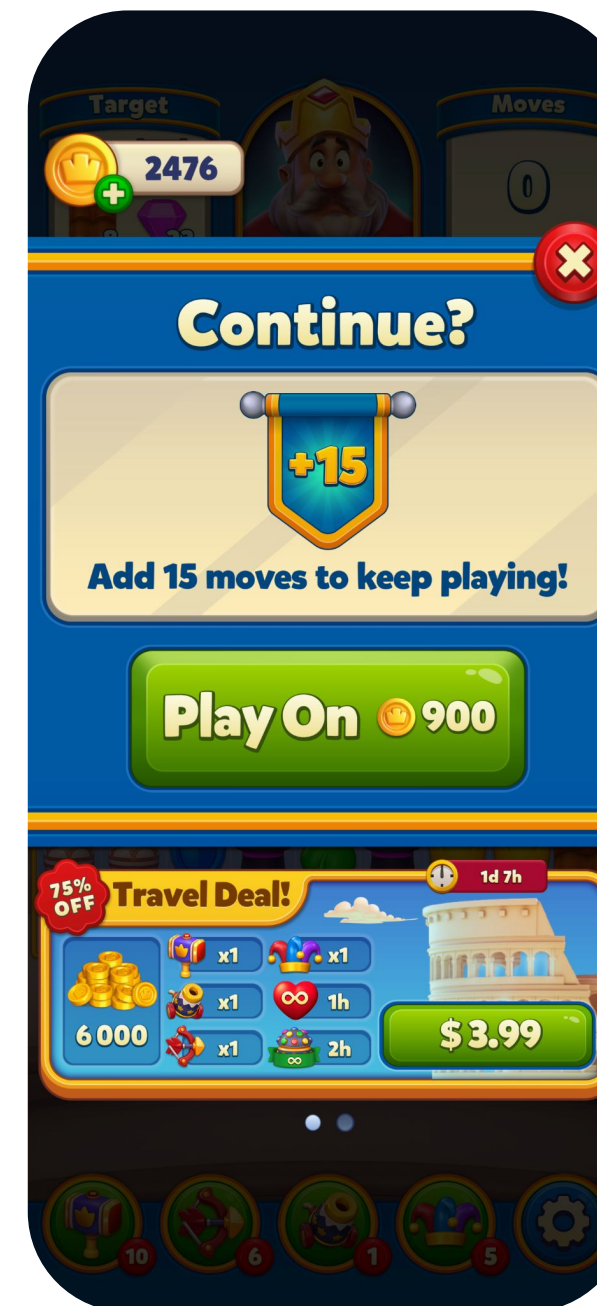
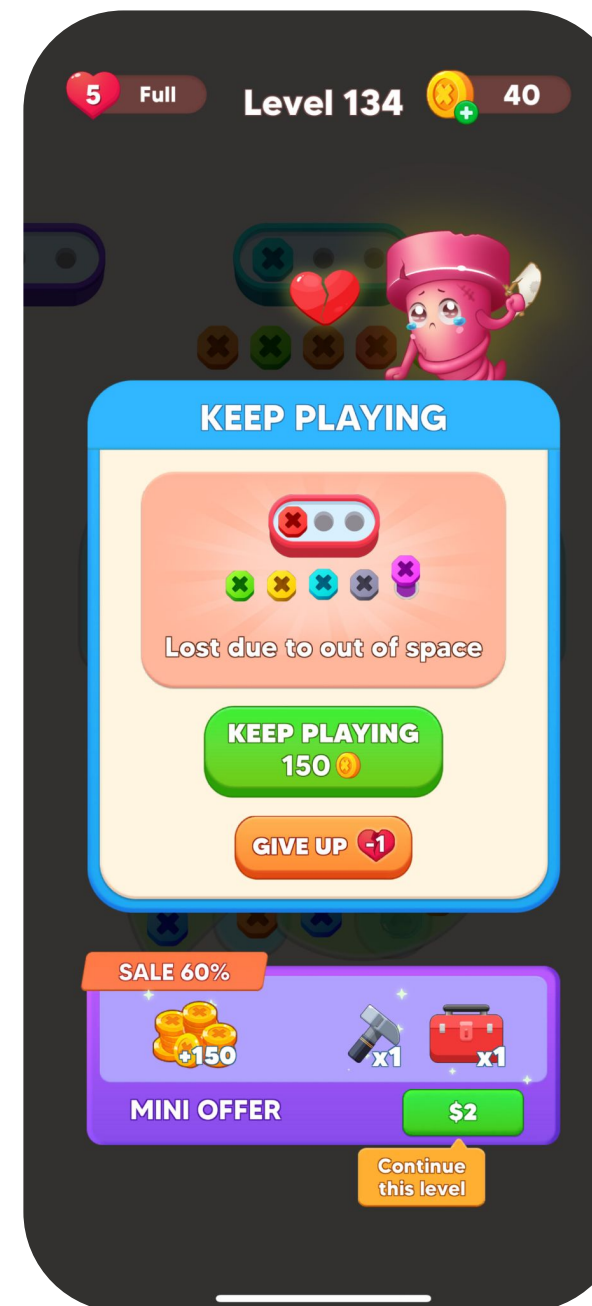
## Why they work:

- Offer exactly the resource needed to continue progress
- No choice overload - immediate solution

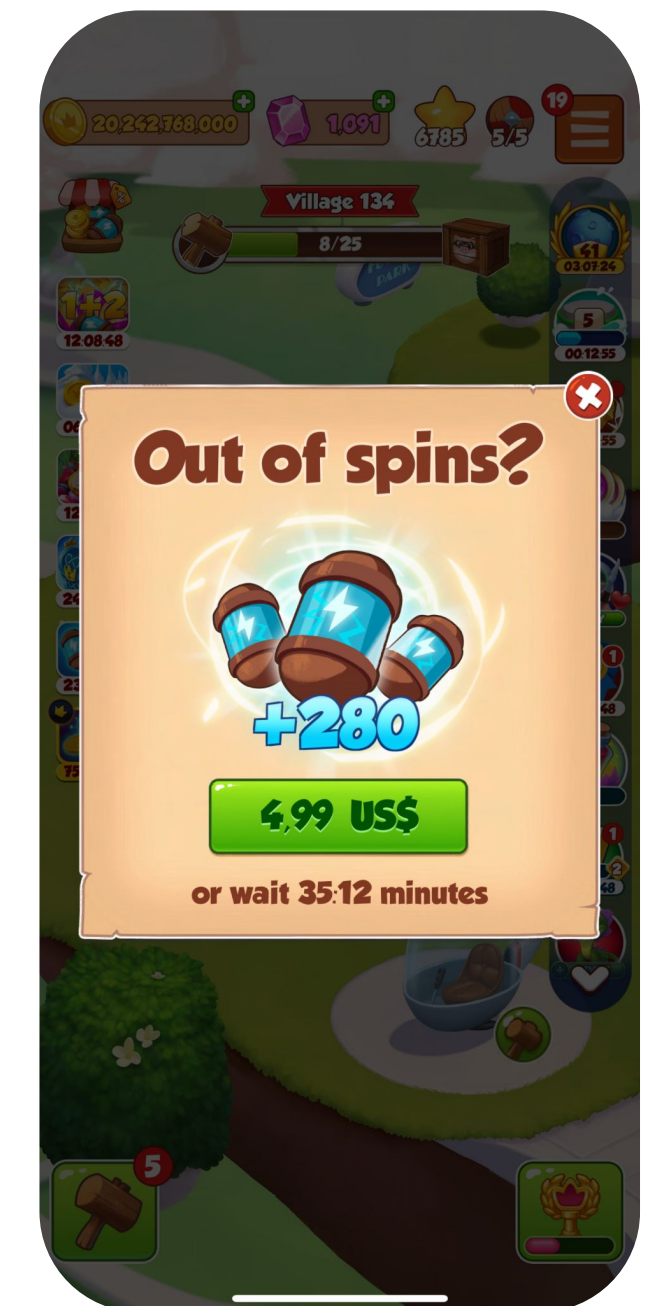
## Price and Value:

- Price and value must match the real cost of continuation
- These offers rely more on **context and need**, not on aggressive price scaling → no extreme price points (e.g. \$50+)

### Revive Pop-up



### Out of Spins





# Endless Offer

## Always something to buy

- Endless Offer works like a '10-in-1' deal
- Buy one – another is already waiting

## Built-in self-segmentation

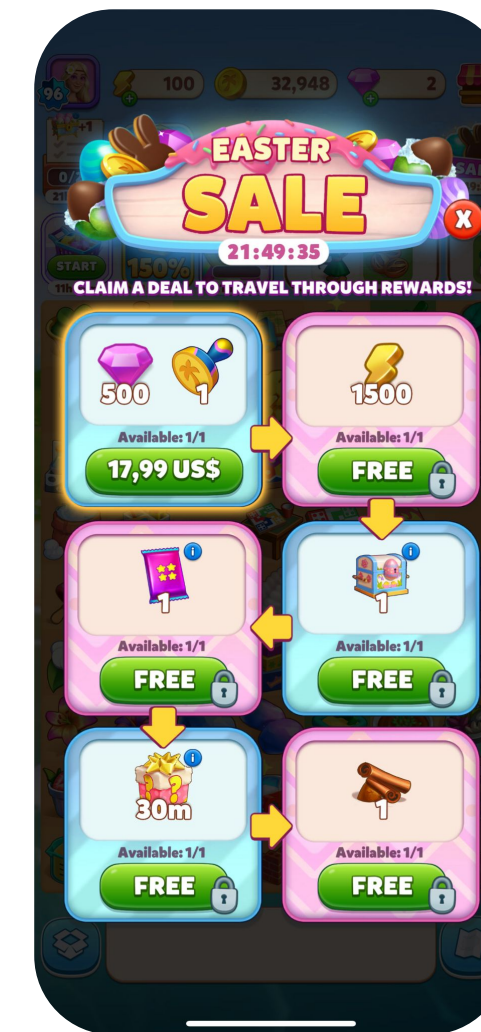
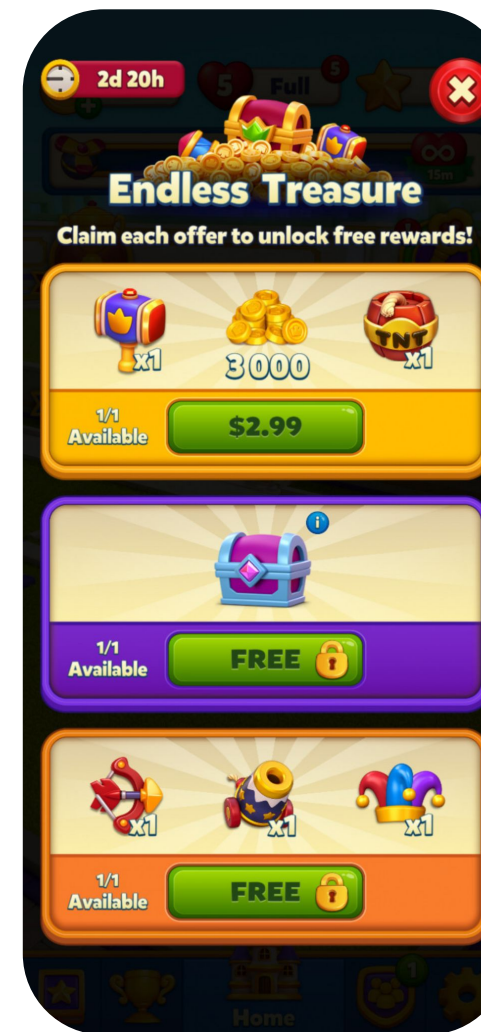
- Players choose how deep they go
- Some stop at 2, others at 5 or complete the whole chain

## Strong ARPPU driver

- Depth is defined by player willingness, not forced pricing
- Start cheap, scale smoothly: Low entry price → repeat purchases → gradual check growth

## Two scaling strategies

- Price increases step by step
- OR: Same price, but higher value (better for repeat purchase)



## Strong visual hook

- Each purchase unlocks 'extra rewards for FREE'
- 6-slot or 3-slot Offers – great for rotation. Same Structure, new Visuals





# 1+X Offer

**This offer type is all about visuals and variety**

Same core value – completely different perception

## Psychology over math

Multiple FREE tiles create an illusion of overwhelming value. Rational thinking switches off

### Common Visual & Reward Variations

#### 1. 1+1 format

*Buy one – get the same pack for free*

Classic, easy to read, triggers discount instincts

#### 2. Mirror format (1 + half + half)

FREE rewards visually match the paid pack

Identical tiles = strong feeling of high value

#### 3. 1+6 or 1+12 formats

Sheer number of FREE rewards feels stunning

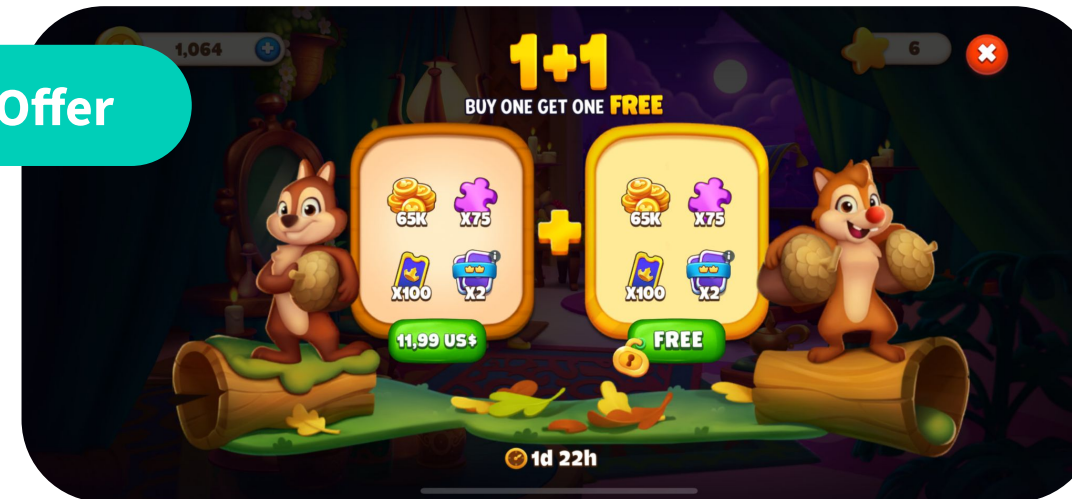
Creates a hypnotic 'too good to ignore' effect

#### 4. 1+X with a focus on rare currency

Different rewards, one clear highlight

Premium or rare items drive perceived generosity

#### 1+1 Offer



(+highlighted by twin chipmunks)

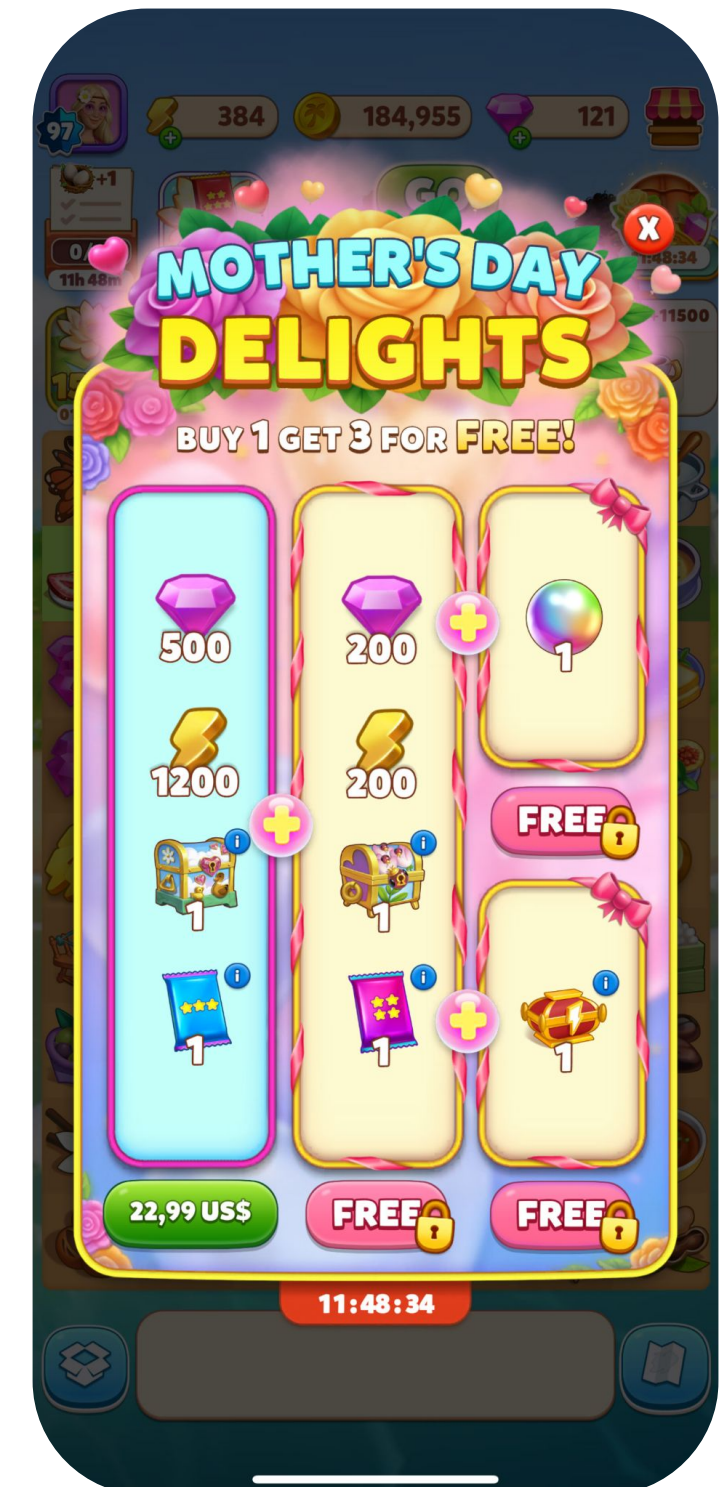
#### 1+half+half Offer



#### 1+12 Offer



#### Focus on Rare Currency (Pearl)





## 2-3 Bundles in One Offer

### Choice architecture as a monetization tool

- Adds **built-in Segmentation** inside a single offer
- Side-by-side options enable **controlled comparison** and intentional emphasis (use *Anchoring, Decoy effect*)

### Common Design Patterns:

#### 1. Anchor the higher-priced options

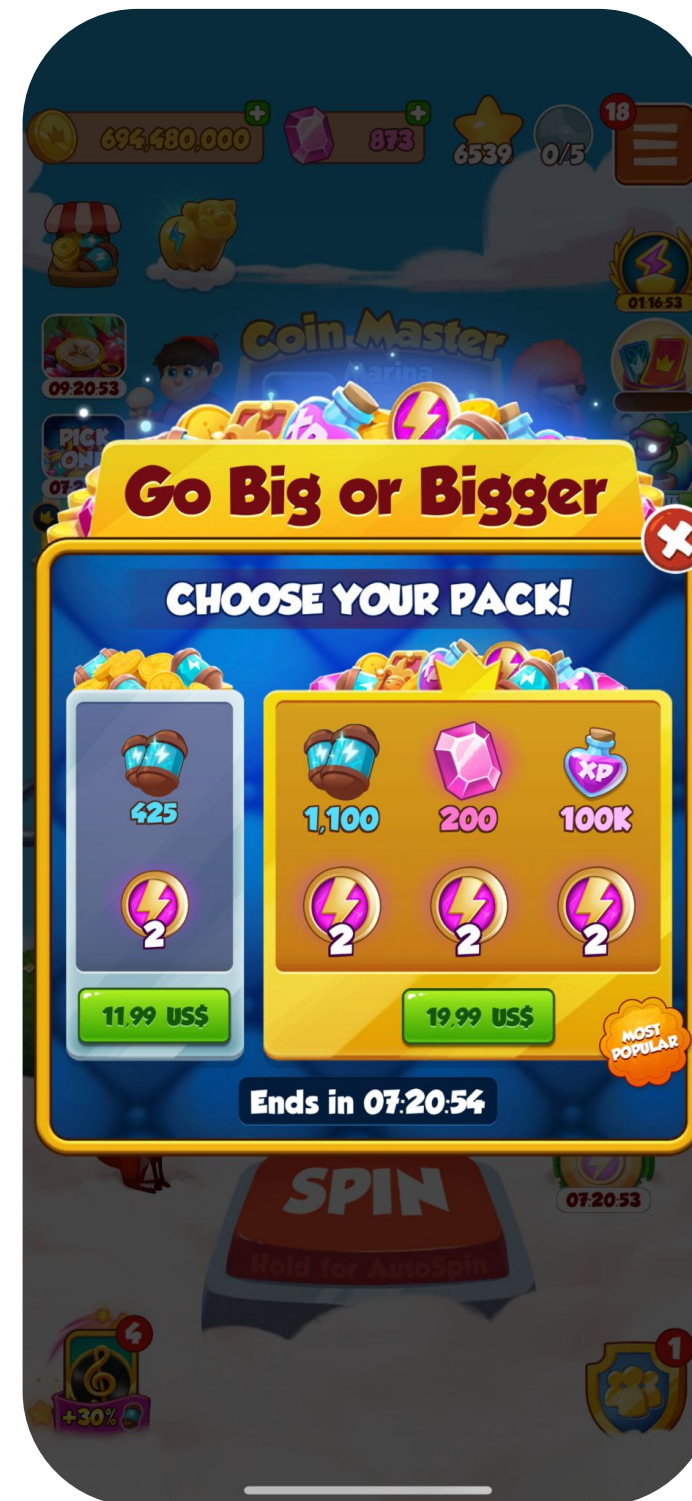
- First bundle is intentionally weak
- Visually smaller and less attractive→  
Makes the next 1-2 options look significantly better

#### 2. Comfort vs premium contrast

- 1-2 options sit in a 'comfortable' price range
- 3rd option is expensive but clearly more valuable
- Visual emphasis + attention to the premium choice

#### 3. 'Buy Them All' option

- Multiple balanced bundles OR Buy them ALL with **20-40% OFF**
- Converts indecision into a higher total check



Clearly highlighted by color and size.  
More than 2X value without a 2X price.



Smoothly guides the player toward the highest-priced purchase – both visually and through balance.



The 'Buy All' price is only slightly higher than the most expensive offer: a \$2 difference – while the value gain is \$10+2



# Battle Pass+

## Why Battle Pass Works

- 'I've already progressed so much – buying feels logical'
- And vice versa – Buying unlocks the desire to finish the pass and maximize rewards

However, **Main Limitation of Battle Pass: Low purchase frequency:** 1 purchase per 14-30 days

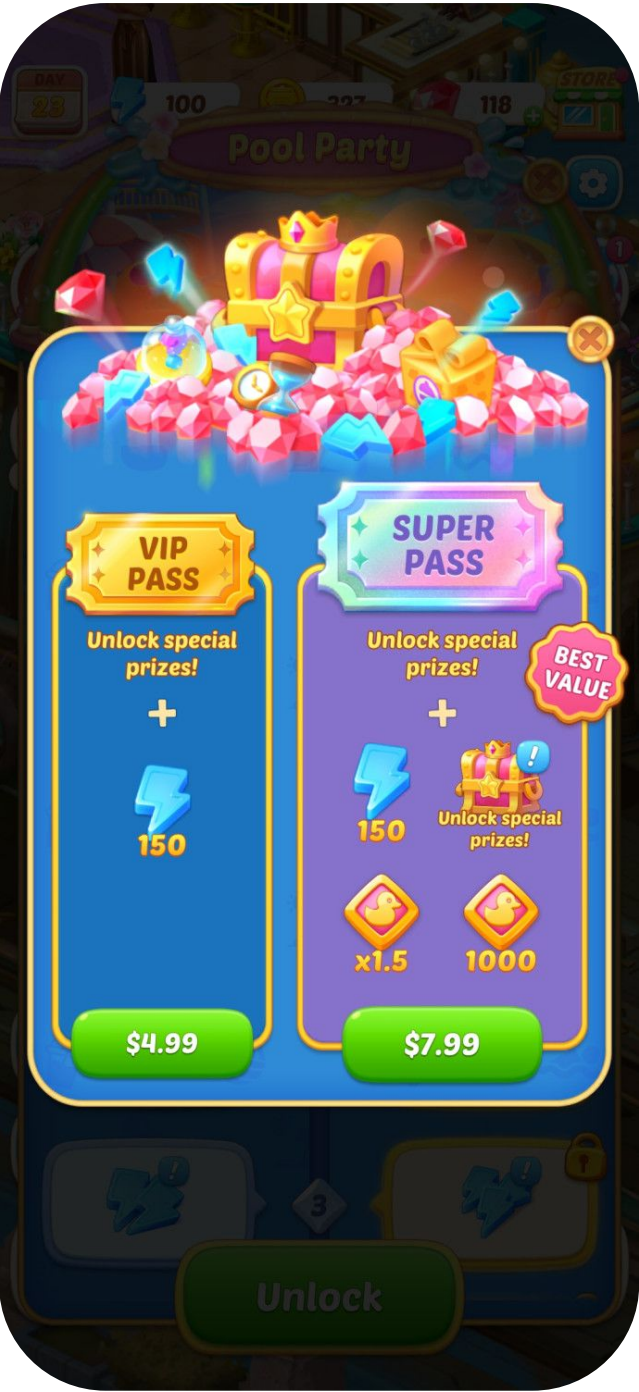
### Common Short-Term Variations (2-3 days)

- **Endless Offer + Currency from activity**
  - a. Progress generates currency – abandoning it feels wasteful
  - b. Purchase unlocks accumulated value
- **Chain Activity Pass** (Royal Match)
  - a. Goals progress simultaneously and stack
  - b. Next milestone always feels 'just a bit away'

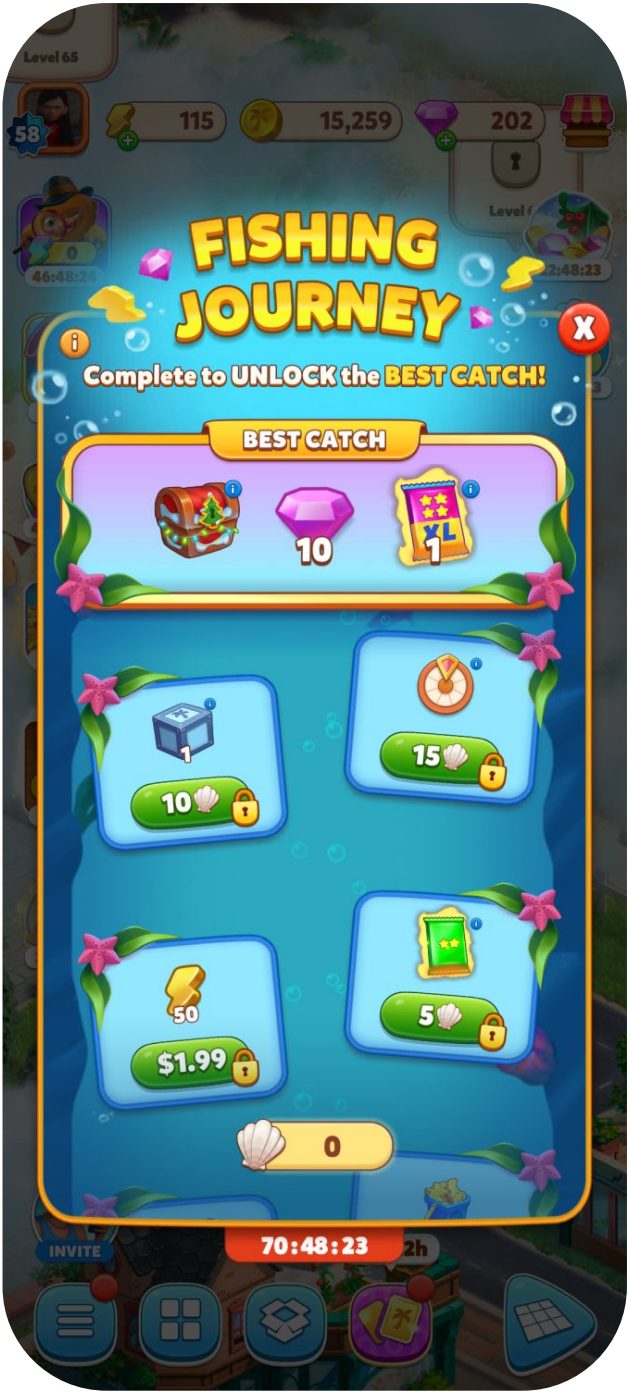
### How to Balance It Properly

- Base activity → average offer Bonus
- Above-base activity → higher Bonus Value

### Battle Pass



### Endless Offer + Currency from Activity



### Chain Activity Pass





# Stamp It

A short-term **purchase-loyalty mechanic**

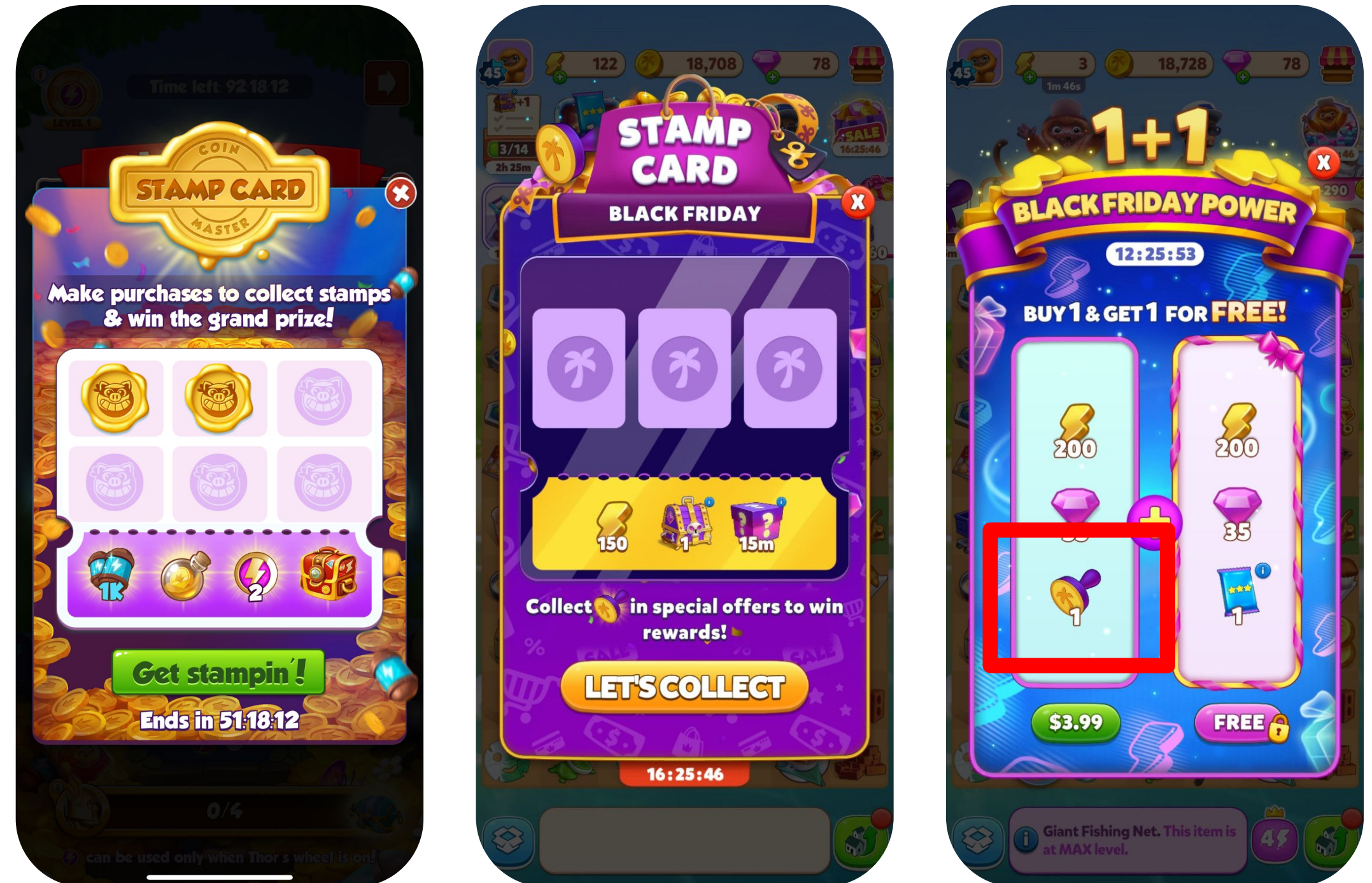
Inspired by midcore & café loyalty systems – but compressed in time

## Why It Works

- **Drives repeat purchases**  
Rewards are unlocked only after *multiple* buys
- **Controls minimum check**  
Stamps are granted only for selected offers or price tiers
- **Turns spending into a goal**  
*'I'm just one purchase away from the reward'*

## How It Increases LTV (Example)

- Player baseline:  
~\$10 per purchase, 1-2 buys in 3 days
- Stamp event rule:  
3 purchases, **min \$7 each**
- Result:  
To unlock all rewards → **\$21+ total spend**

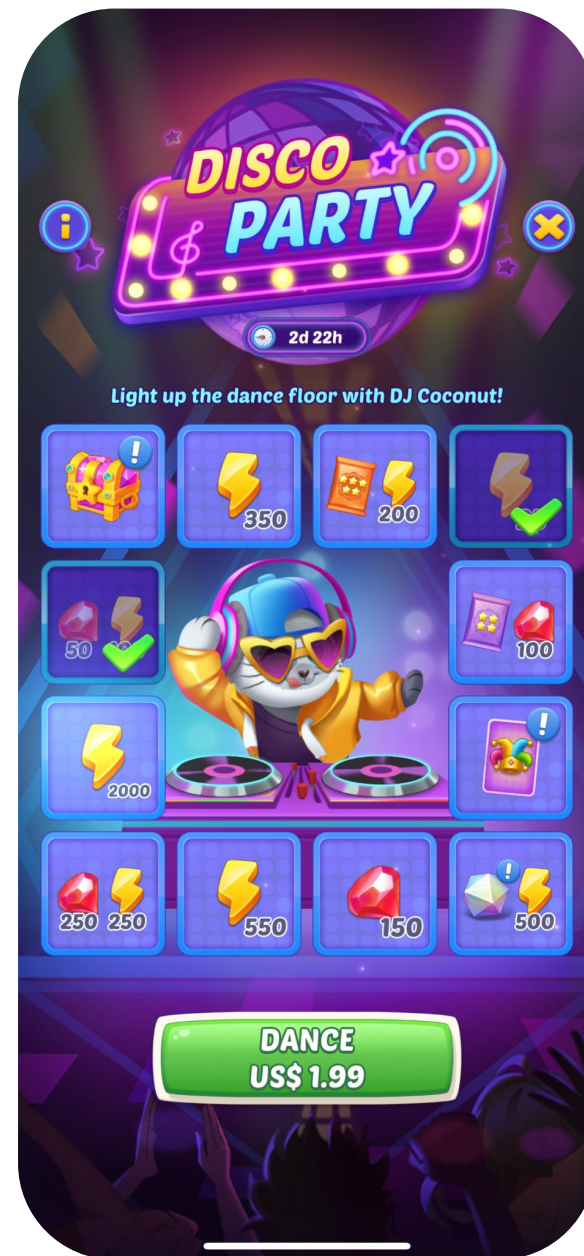


**Don't set the bar too high** – too much friction kills motivation



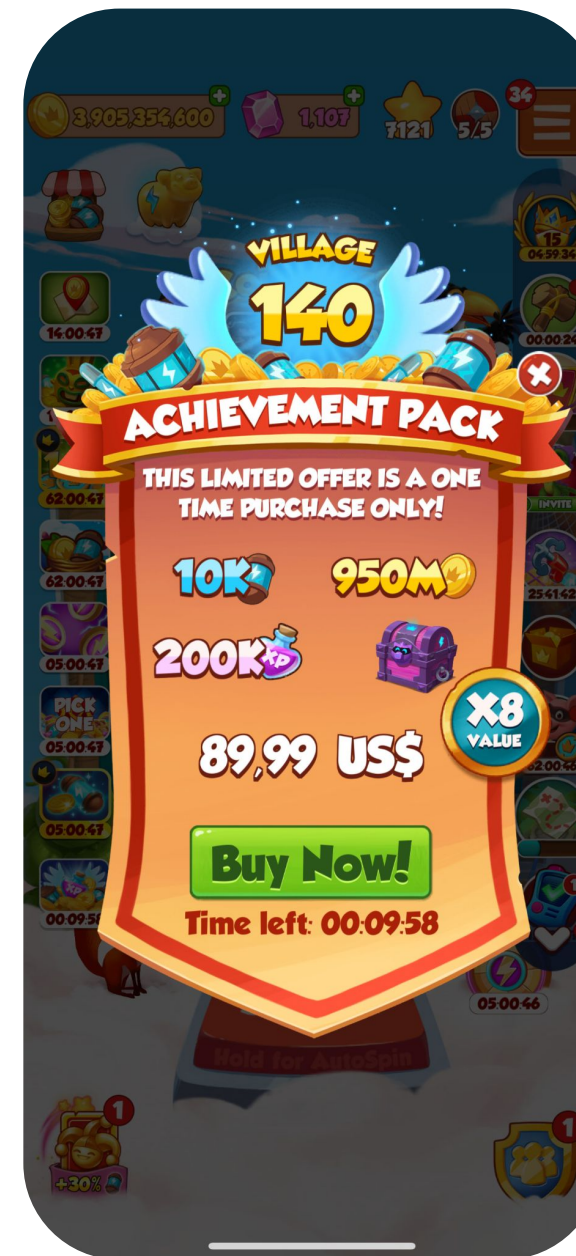
# Other

## Disco Wheel



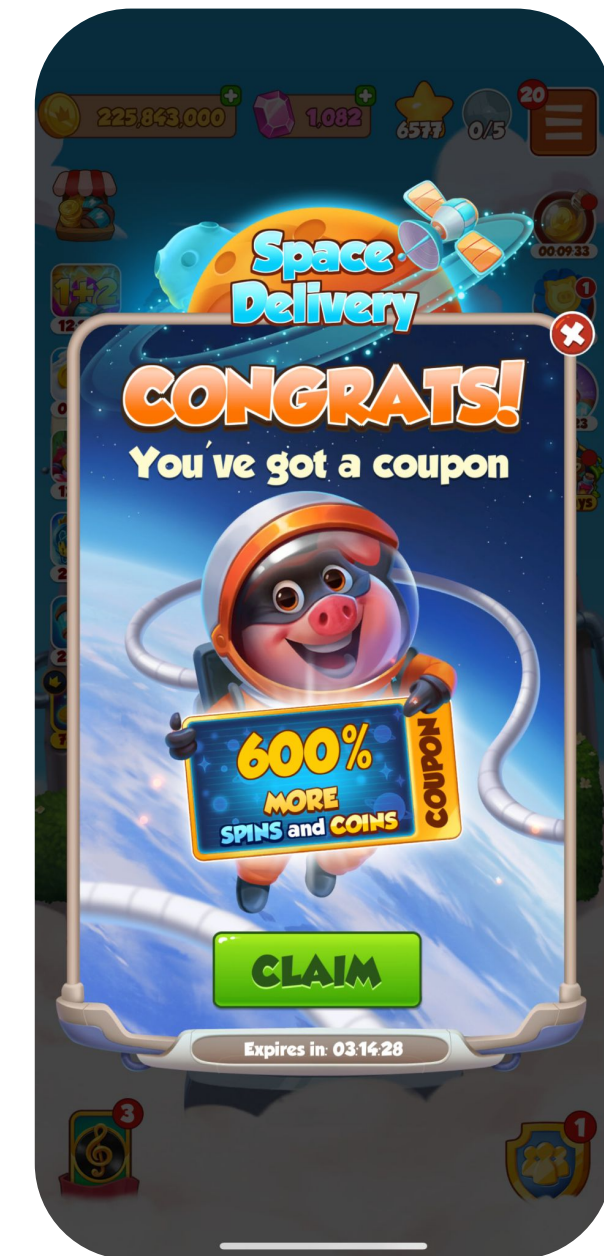
Starts with low-priced spins, but both price and attraction grow as valuable slots remain.  
Strong driver of **repeat purchases**

## Milestone Offer



Triggered by reaching a meaningful milestone – players buy on **positive emotions**, even without currency deficit.

## Shop: Special Offer / Coupon



Coupon store bonuses (e.g. '+100% value on all purchases') are an **underrated** but powerful monetization lever.



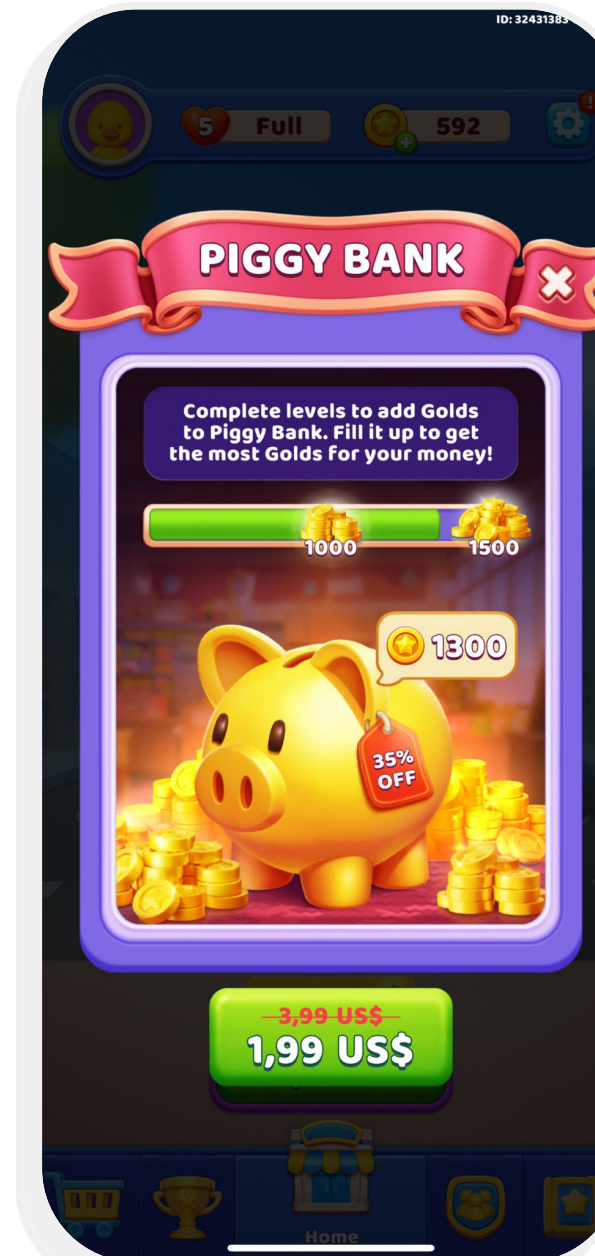
# Other

## Event Currency Offer



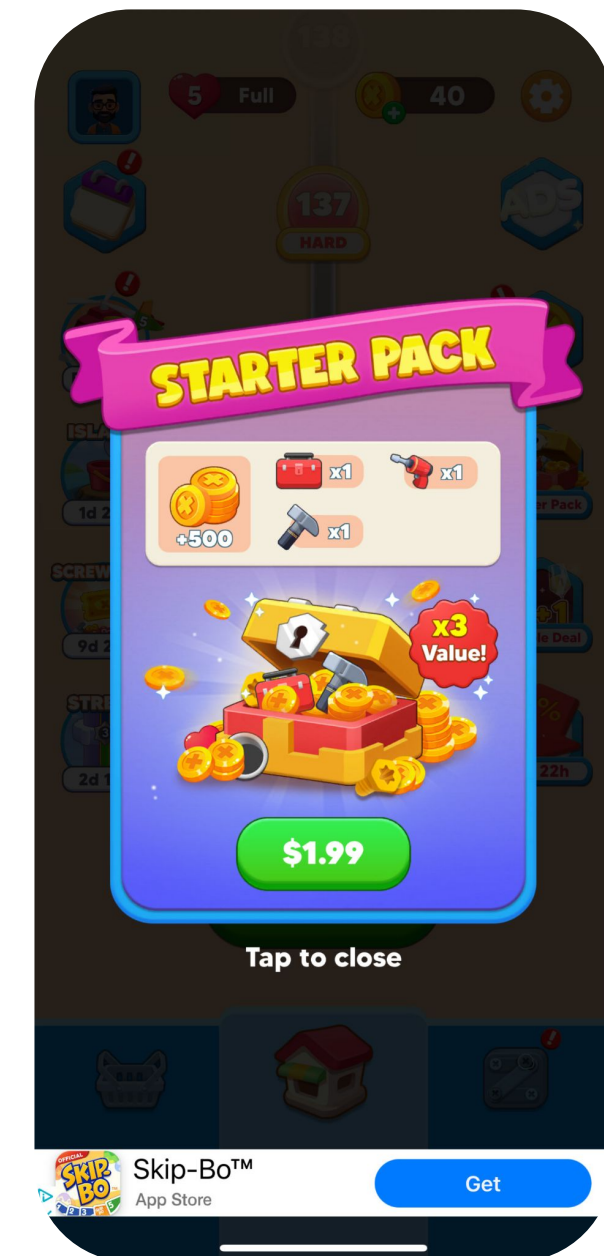
Sells event-specific currency, often combined with core currencies. Especially **effective near the end of events** – albums amplify urgency.

## Piggy Bank



Leverages the **'already earned value' effect** – you just need to unlock it. Still psychologically strong, even if newer offer types have partially replaced it.

## Starter Pack



Strong visual presentation paired with significantly higher value. Designed to secure the **1st Purchase** fast and confidently.



# Offer Triggers and Placements



# Offer Exposure: One Touch Is Rarely Enough

A purchase usually requires multiple touches - or one exceptionally strong trigger

This is how most marketing campaigns work: the idea needs time to *mature* before it turns into a purchase.

## An offer needs to be:

- **Introduced** ('seen' by the player)
- **Triggered** at the right moment (out of Currency, lose the progression of the event, etc)
- **Easy to access** (lobby, shop)

If players can't quickly find an offer, it effectively doesn't exist.

## The Road to Repetitive Marketing



Studies show that a prospect customer needs to see/hear an advertiser's message **at least 7 times**, before they take actions



# Core Offer Triggers

## Game Entry (Login / Opening the Game)

- Many companies fear pop-up overload
- In reality, this is one of the most effective exposure points

## 'Out of Currency' Moment

- Especially strong for **Merge, Solitaire, Casino** genres
- The same offers can be shown here and on login
- Sequential exposure works well

## Level Failure → Continue Level Offer (Revive)

- Core trigger for level-based games
- Clear friction → clear solution

## Positive Moments (Momentum Triggers)

- Purchases don't happen only in deficit
- Players buy 'on a high' - before friction appears
- Especially effective when offers are:
  - clearly valuable
  - limited in time (5-10 minutes / now or never)

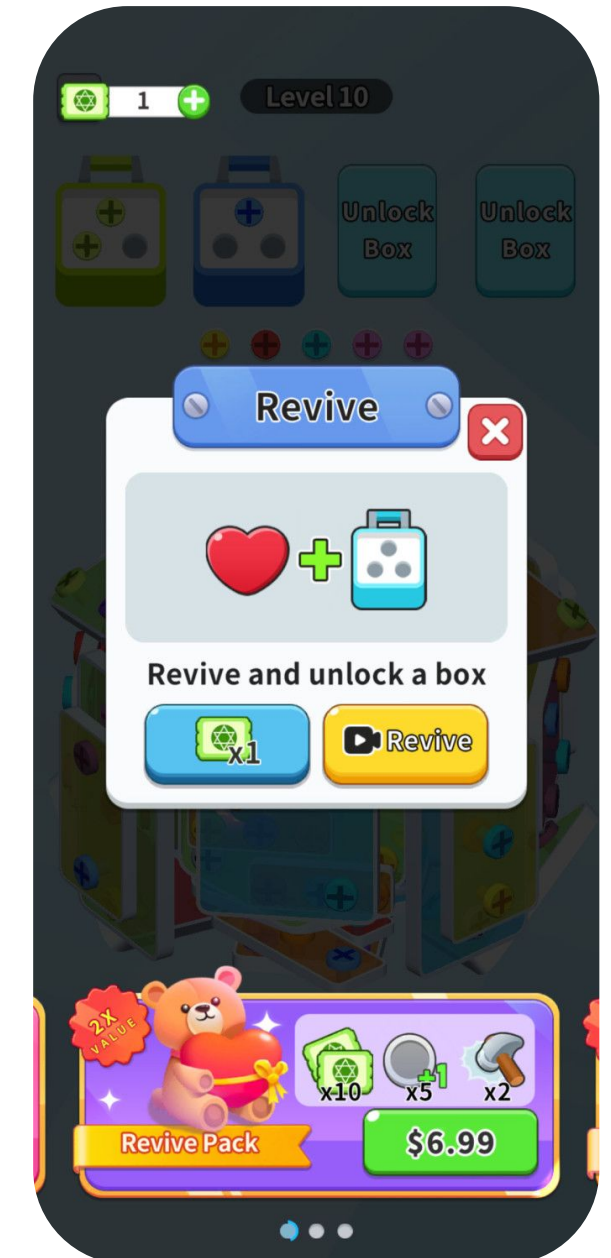
### Positive Moment



### Out of Currency



### Revive Offer



# Offers Pricing & Segmentation



# Segmentation: Start With Why

## Why you may need Segmentation:

- Players have **different willingness to pay**
- One price cannot fit everyone
- Without segmentation, you either:
  - *under-monetize high-potential players*
  - *or push low-payers away*

## Segmentation helps you:

- scale prices only when players are ready
- protect conversion for low spenders
- maximize long-term value

## What segmentation is *not*

- Not 'make offers more expensive for payers'

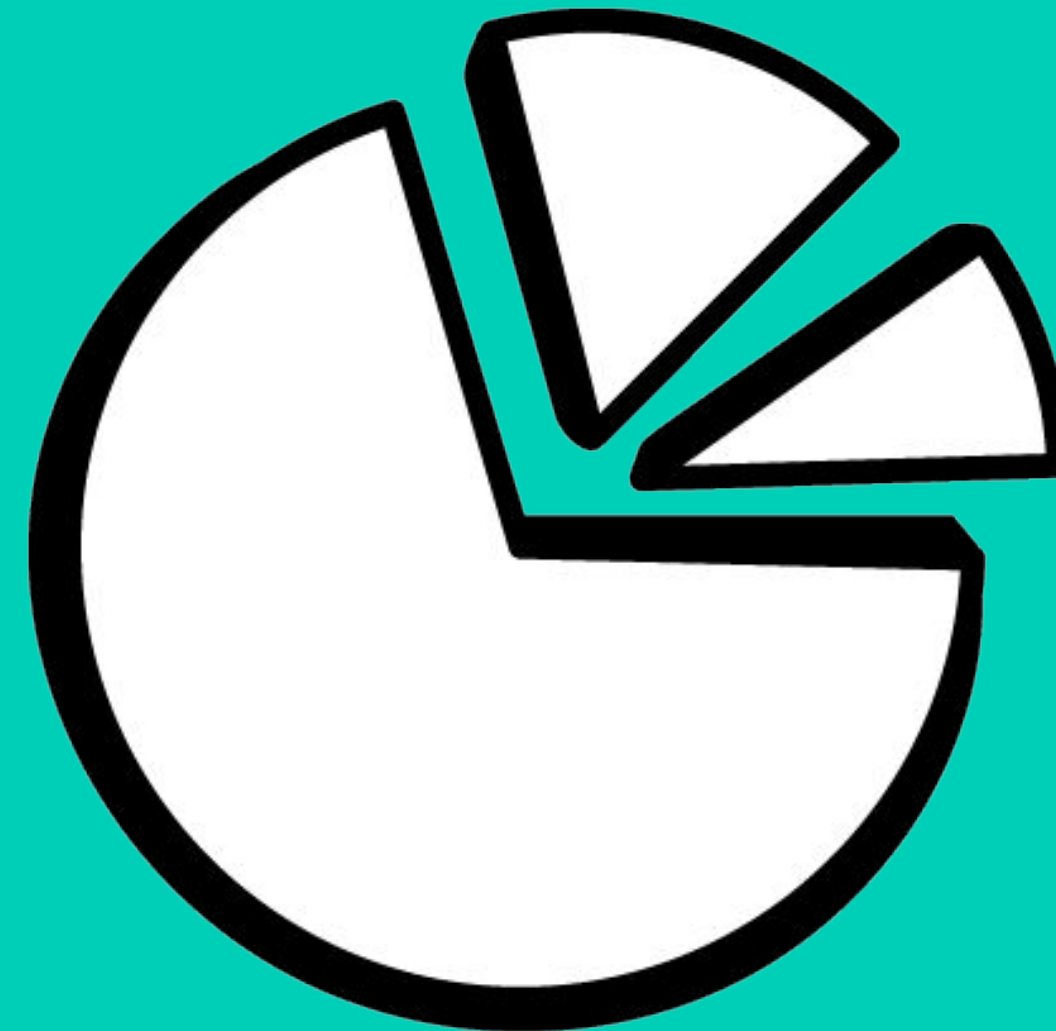


# When Simple Pricing Is Enough: Don't Over-Segment Too Soon

Segmentation is powerful – but it's not always the first priority.

**You can wait if:**

- The project is at an **early stage**
- Offer types, pricing, or economy are **not yet stable**
- You're focusing on **1st Conversion offers**  
*(here segmentation by country, UA source, or device matters more)*
- You don't have enough data to read player behavior reliably
- Your features already include **self-segmentation**  
*(Endless offers, Chain offers, 2-3 Bundles in one offer)*
- Your offers are **not segmented** or only **minimally segmented**  
*(Revive offers, Battle Pass)*
- The game relies on **cheap traffic + ad monetization**  
*(segmentation is still important – but mainly for ads, not offers)*







# Simple Pricing Logic

# Simple Pricing Logic

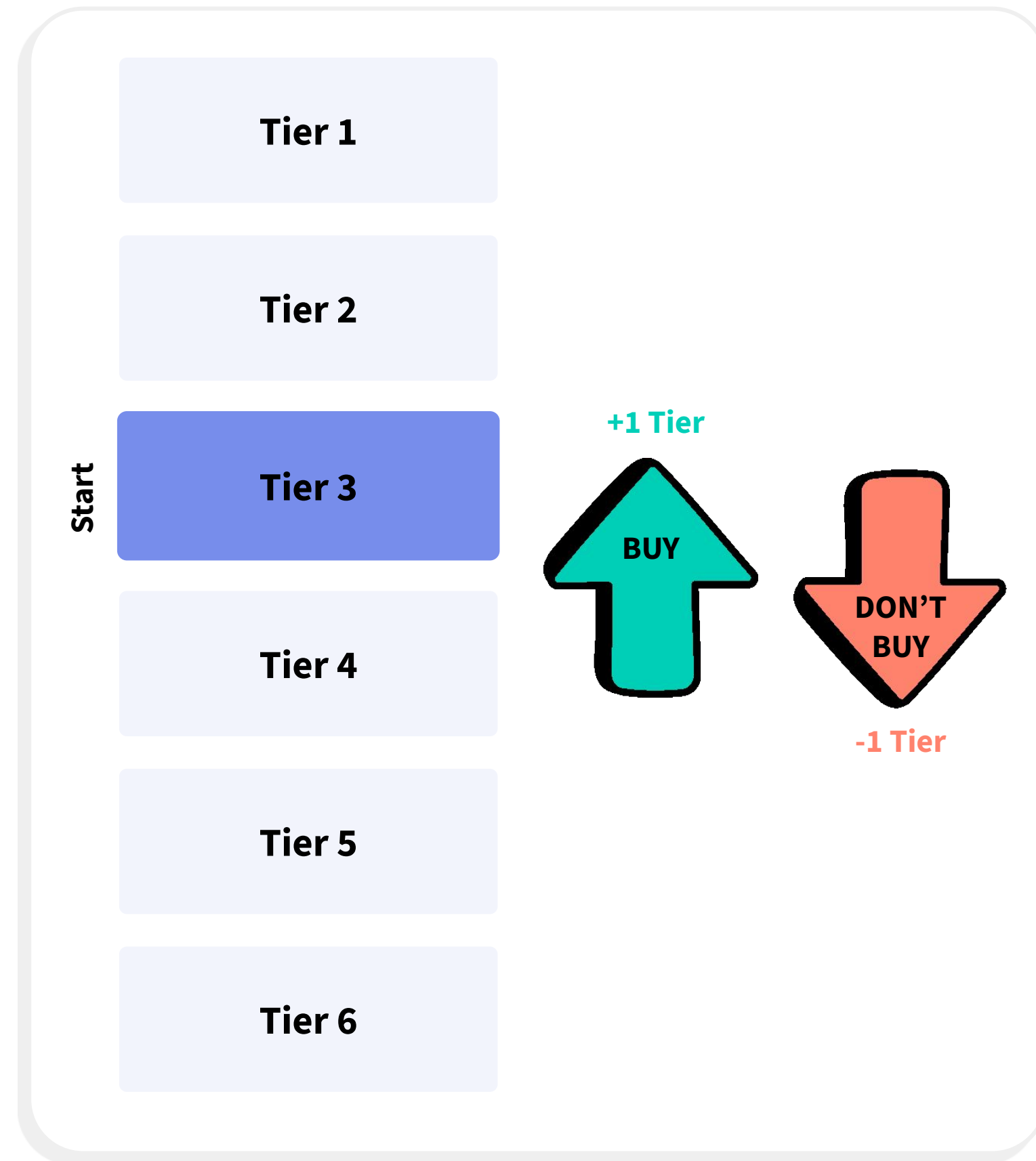
You don't need a complex monetization system from day one

- A simple **step-up** / **step-down** logic works well both for new projects
- And even for Top games (e.g. Royal Match - for selected offer types).

## How It Works (Basic Logic)

- Offers are split into **Tiers**  
(each Tier = higher price + higher value)
- Player **BUYS** the offer → move **+1 Tier Up**  
(shows readiness to pay more)
- Player does **NOT BUY** for some time → move **-1 Tier Down** (price pressure is reduced)
- Rollback speed can be tuned via **Recency**  
(higher tiers → slower rollback)

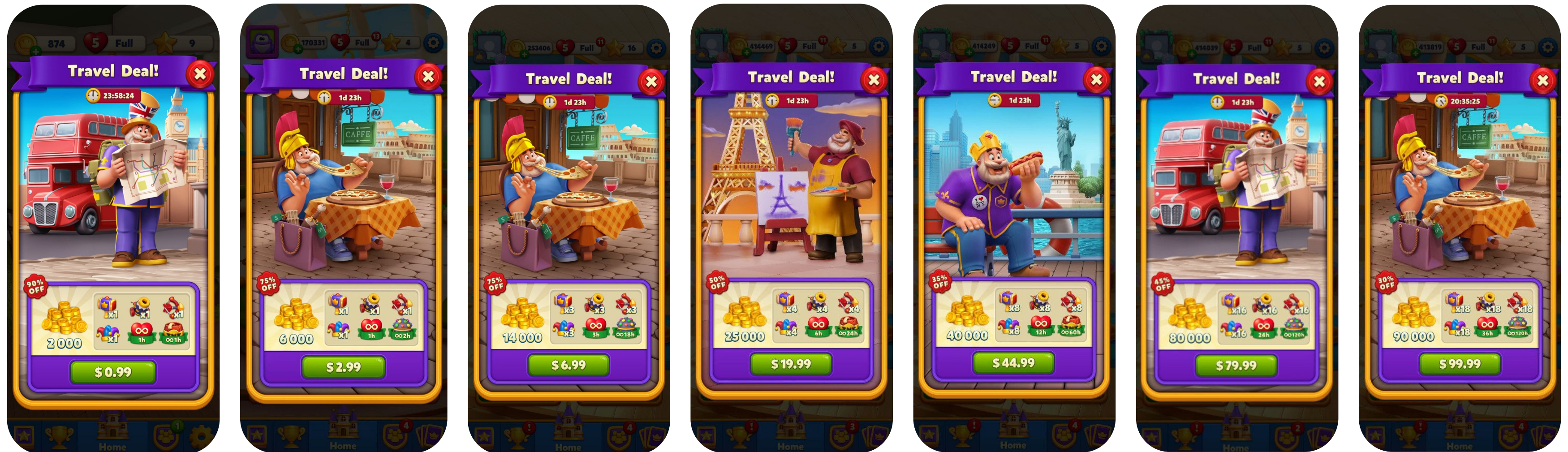
This creates a self-adjusting price ladder.





# Royal Match: Example

- The **Travel Deal** offer changes depending on how many times the player has purchased it. The cost of this offer increases sequentially with each new purchase.
- However, if the player stops purchasing the offer, its price does not remain high. When the offer next appears, its cost is reduced by one step – to the previous level.



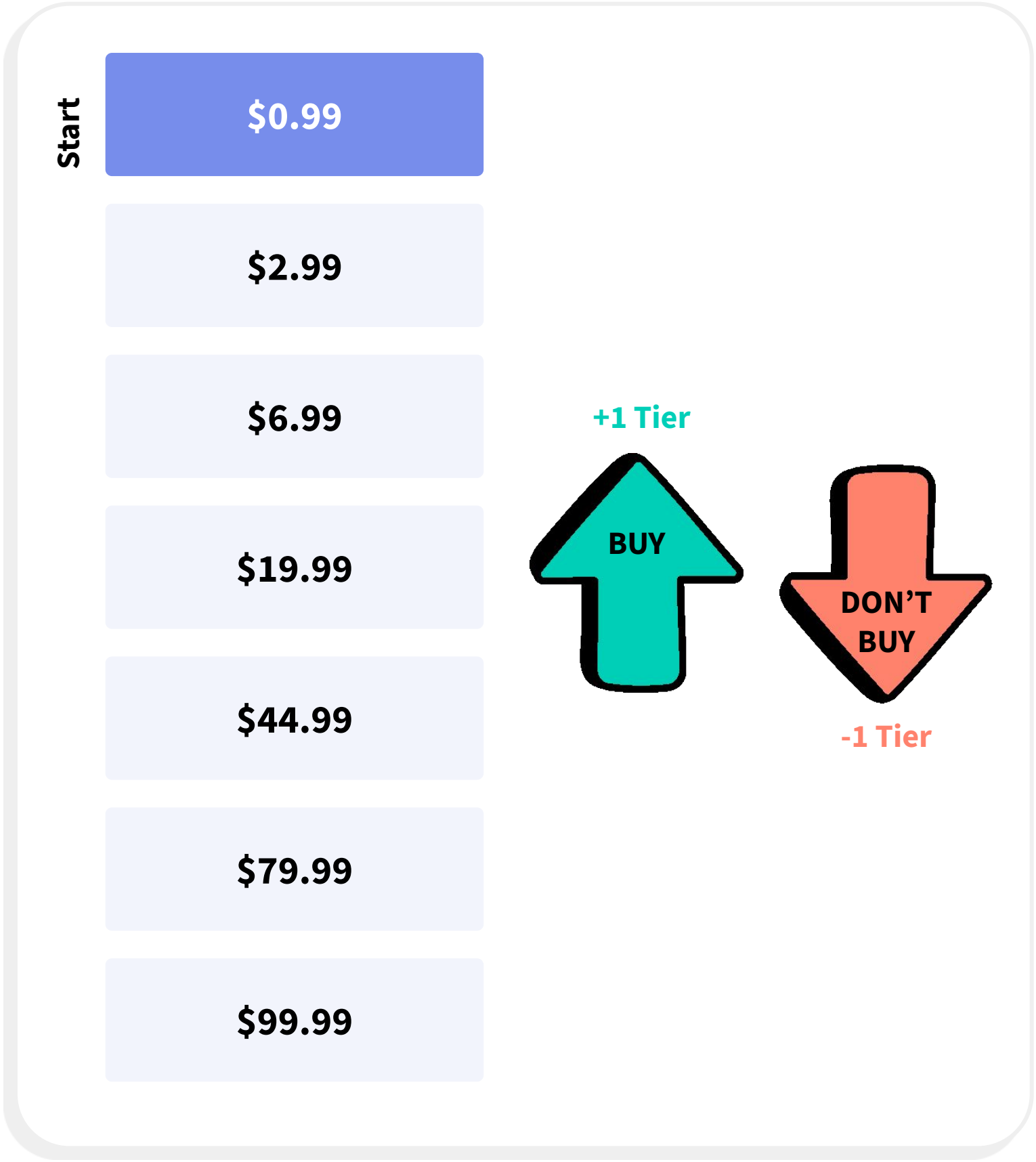


# Royal Match: Example

The system follows the same tier logic as described above.

- The offer has **7 Tiers**, priced from **\$0.99 to \$99.99**
- The player starts from **Tier 1** – the cheapest pack (**\$0.99**)
- From there, the offer moves **Up** or **Down** the ladder based on player behavior:
  - purchase → Tier goes **+1 Up**
  - no purchase during the period → Tier goes **-1 Down**
- The rollback is intentionally slow – prices usually drop only after a long pause (e.g. *~1 week without purchases*)

Purchase #	Offer price, \$
Before purchase	0.99
After 1st purchase	2.99
After 2nd purchase	6.99
After 3rd purchase	19.99
After 4th purchase	44.99
After 5th purchase	79.99
After 6th purchase	99.99







# Segmentation Important Parameters

# Segmentation Parameters: What We Look At First

1

## Recency

- Time since last purchase
- For non-payers: **lifetime recency** is even more important  
→ Shows *how warm* the player is right now

2

## Frequency

- How often the player buys
- Strong indicator of habit vs impulse spending
- Shows upper **potential** for repeat purchases

3

## Total Money (Spend per Period)

- Good for broad grouping
- Weak alone – strongest when combined with Recency & Average Transaction Value

4

## Average Transaction Value

- One of the most underrated parameters
- Often more predictive than Total Spend  
→ Defines the player's **comfortable price zone**

5

## Max Payment

- Shows upper **potential**, not behavior baseline
- Usually used as a supporting signal, not a primary one

6

## Contextual Parameters (Deeper Layer)

- Country
- UA source
- Device
- Player Engagement and Turnover
- etc



# RFM: Recency, Frequency

## Recency

- **For payers** → time since last purchase
- **For non-payers** → lifetime recency  
(how long the player has been in the game without converting)

What it tells you: How long the player hasn't paid.  
Whether it's time to act – or step back

## Why it's critical

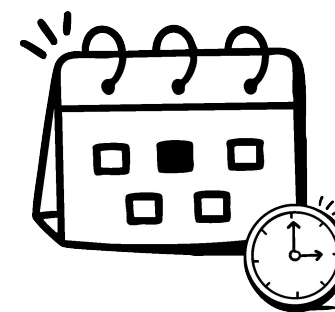
- One of the main signals for **price rollback**
- Especially useful when prices were pushed above the player's comfort zone

Typical use cases: High Recency → reduce pressure, lower price, reintroduce value

## Frequency

- Less Important at the beginning
- Strong indicator of **repeat purchase potential**
- Paying frequency = **habit formation**. And habit is one of the strongest monetization driver

### Recency



The freshness of the customer activity, be it purchases or visits.

E.g. Time since last order or last engaged with the product

### Frequency



The frequency of the customer transactions or visits.

E.g. Total number of transactions or average time between transactions/engaged visits.

# How to Set Recency Thresholds

There is no universal Recency setup. Each project has **its own purchase rhythm**.

**1 day** is always the starting point → From there, everything depends on player behavior.

## Look at the data, not assumptions

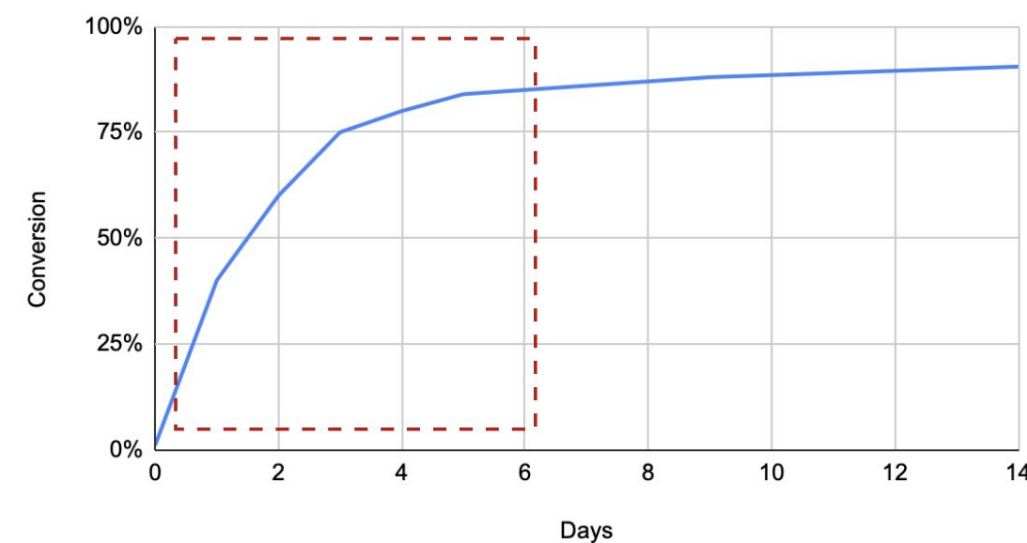
Build Graphics and ask 3 Key Questions:

1. After how many days do players **stop paying**?
2. After how many days does a **repeat purchase** usually happen?
3. Where does the **drop-off** become visible?

These points define your Recency buckets.

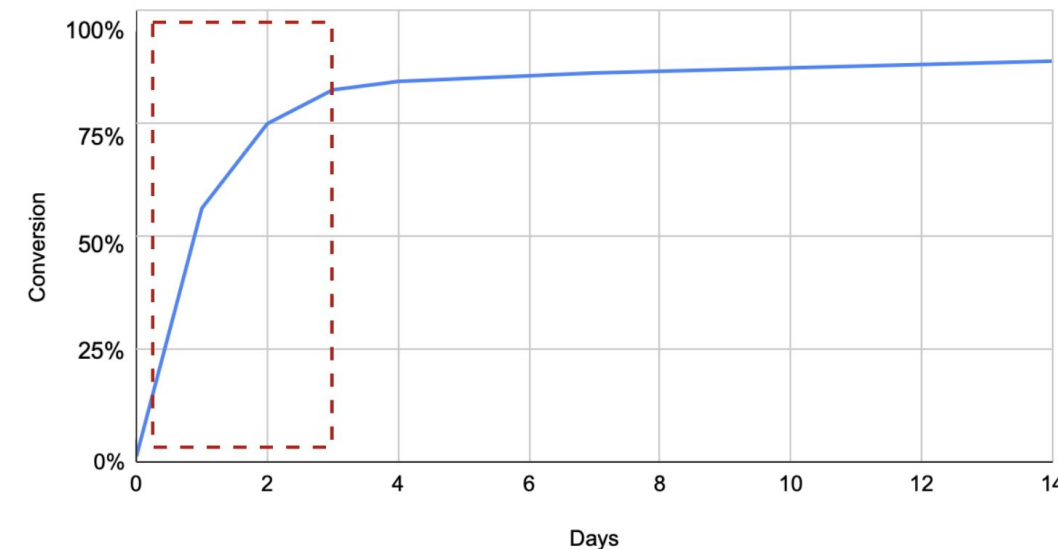
### Game 1

Accumulated conversion



### Game 2

Accumulated conversion



## For example:

- As shown in **Game 1** graph, players keep converting up to **Day 6** and then hit a plateau
- Whereas, in **Game 2**, the active conversion window lasts only **3 Days**.

That's why **Recency thresholds** (e.g., when to aggressively drop Starter Pack pricing) should be different for these games.



# Total Money

## What it shows

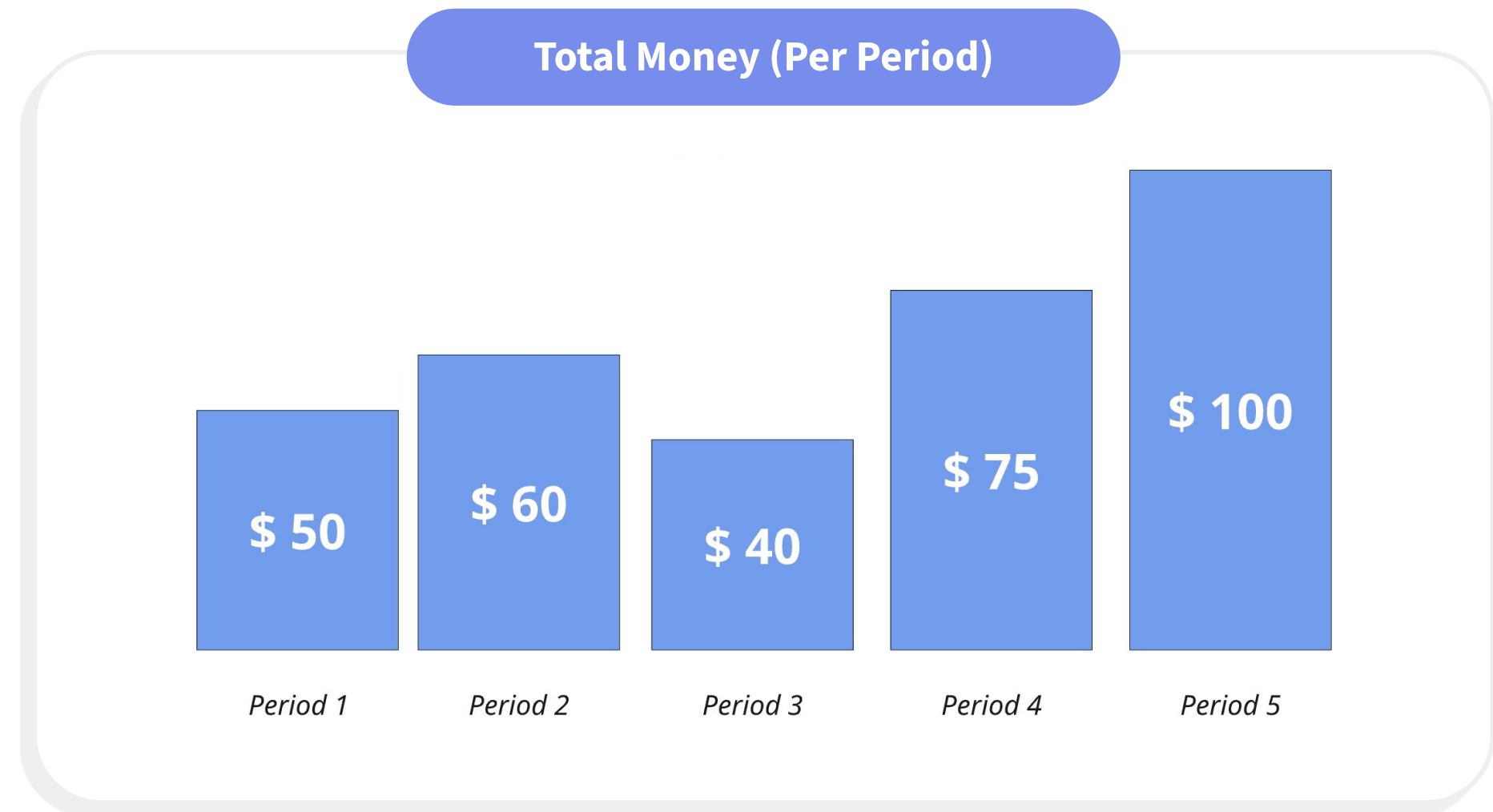
- How much the player has spent **in Total** over their lifetime

## Pros: Why it's useful

- Good for high-level grouping (non-payer / payer / whale)
- Works well as a secondary or supporting signal

## Cons: Where it fails

- Says nothing about current readiness to pay
- A player who spent \$100 a year ago may behave like a non-payer today
  - This can be mitigated by also tracking **Total Spend over a recent period** (e.g. *last 30 days – adjusted to your project's purchase cycle*)
- Total Money reflects **spending potential**, **NOT spending behavior**
  - It shows *how much* a player has spent overall,
  - but not how they usually pay - at which price points and with what consistency.



## What Total Money tells us

- Player's **spending potential** + spend **dynamics** over time
- At a high level, our goal is to **maximize Total Money**

## What Total Money does NOT tell us

- **How** this Revenue is achieved: many small purchases vs a few big ones
- **What** actually changed in behavior: repeat purchases? higher price points?

# From Total Money to Average Transaction Value (ATV)

Let's look at 2 players with the same Total Money, but completely different payment behavior patterns.

## Player 1

**Total Money = \$500**  
**50 purchases × \$10**

Comfortable with microtransactions  
Pays often, in small amounts  
*(often seen in casual and puzzle players)*

### Strategy

- Core offers around ~\$10
- Few beneficial offers in the **\$10–20** range to gently scale the check
- Non-aggressive upsell through: Endless Offers, 3 in 1 Offers
- Main goal: **build repeat purchase habit**

## Player 2

**Total Money = \$500**  
**5 purchases × \$100**

Prefers big, high-value deals  
Pays rarely, but in large chunks  
*(often seen in gambling and chance-based games players)*

### Strategy

- **Don't underprice**
- If the player is comfortable with **\$50**, avoid flooding them with **\$3–5** deals
- Focus on: premium bundles, high-value, clear propositions
- However: If the player hasn't paid for a long time and has moved away from their usual purchase rhythm, it's reasonable to **gradually lower the price** to re-engage them – without an abrupt drop



# Average Transaction Value (ATV)

ATV ~ The player's real comfort zone

## Why it matters

- Predicts how players react to price changes
- Helps avoid:
  - underpricing high-potential players
  - overpricing frequent low-check buyers

## Long-Term Reality

- It's easier to **build a habit of regular payments** at a comfortable price
- Only after that does it make sense to carefully **increase the Average Transaction Value**

**Psychologically**, a lot of players are far more willing to:

- spend a small amount multiple times
- than make one large payment

This is why frequency + comfort zone often outperform one-off high prices.

ATV +1

Higher Price

ATV

Comfort Zone

ATV -1

Lower Price

## How to use it

- Core offers should sit close to the ATV
- Upsell offers should be:
  - slightly above it
  - clearly more valuable
  - non-aggressive

# ATV: Practical Notes

## Smooth out Outliers

- Abnormal purchases (e.g. a payment that differs from the average by X%) should have **lower weight**

## Exclude non-representative purchases

For example:

- non-segmented offers: Battle Pass, etc
- the cheapest Shop purchases

## Weighted Purchase History

- Recent purchases should influence segmentation **more strongly**
- Example weighting:
  - **4-5** for recent purchases
  - **2-3** for older ones

The goal is to capture typical behavior, not noise.

## Sometimes You Should Step Down

Should you always offer only the comfort price and higher?

Not always. **Especially at high price points**

- After a higher-than-usual purchase, the old price may still feel *emotionally comfortable* while the new one felt like a stretch.
- Giving a temporary step-down option

## What Happens If You Don't Step Down

If the price stays too high for too long:

### Scenario 1 (Best case)

- Player loves the game, keeps playing
- Eventually converts again (even with higher price)
- Important: **don't raise the price further** – hold the tier, especially at high values

### Scenario 2 (Risk)

- Player stops buying
- Engagement drops
- Higher churn risk



# Max Payment

MaxPayment – potential signal, not a baseline  
Don't Overreact to One High Purchase

## What it shows

- The highest single payment a player has ever made
- Indicates upper spending potential, not regular behavior

## How it should be used

- Signals how expensive an 'Premium' offer *can* be
  - Complements the core pricing logic, not replaces it
- Core offers should still be priced **around the player's Average Transaction Value**
- Expensive offers should appear **in parallel**, not instead of core ones

## Example

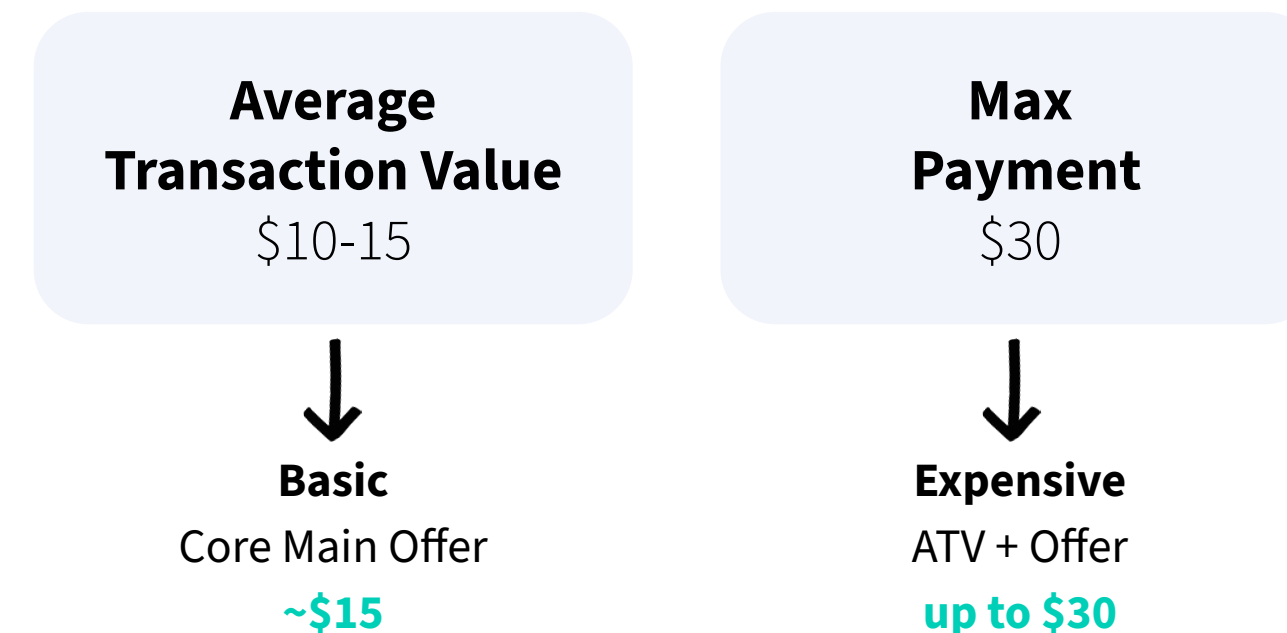
A player usual pattern is \$10–15 purchases  
Their once paid \$30 during a holiday event.

- Max Payment shows potential
- ATV + Frequency show reality

**Core Offers** = \$10-15 (according to Average Transaction Value)

**Premium Offer** = \$30 (because of the MaxPayment - potential)

Lower Price



# Other Parameters

## Country / Tier

- Lower-tier countries often monetize worse
- Conversion and ARPU expectations should be adjusted accordingly

## UA Source

- Higher-quality traffic: pays more often, shows higher loyalty
- Cheaper traffic: lower conversion, weaker repeat behavior

## Player Progress (Level)

- Early-game players convert easier on cheap offers
- Mid / late-game players accept higher prices and more complex bundles
- Consider inflation: at higher levels, offers often need more currency per \$ to stay meaningful



## Device

- iOS and Android often behave very differently - if we are talking about Offer System
- Offer systems should be analyzed separately
- BUT you should be ready to support 2 distinct systems

### Interesting fact:

- Expensive Android devices (e.g. premium Samsung) sometimes behave like iOS
- Cheaper iPhones can behave closer to Android



# ML & Personalization

## The Highest Level of Segmentation

The most advanced form of player segmentation is **personalized offer management powered by ML**.

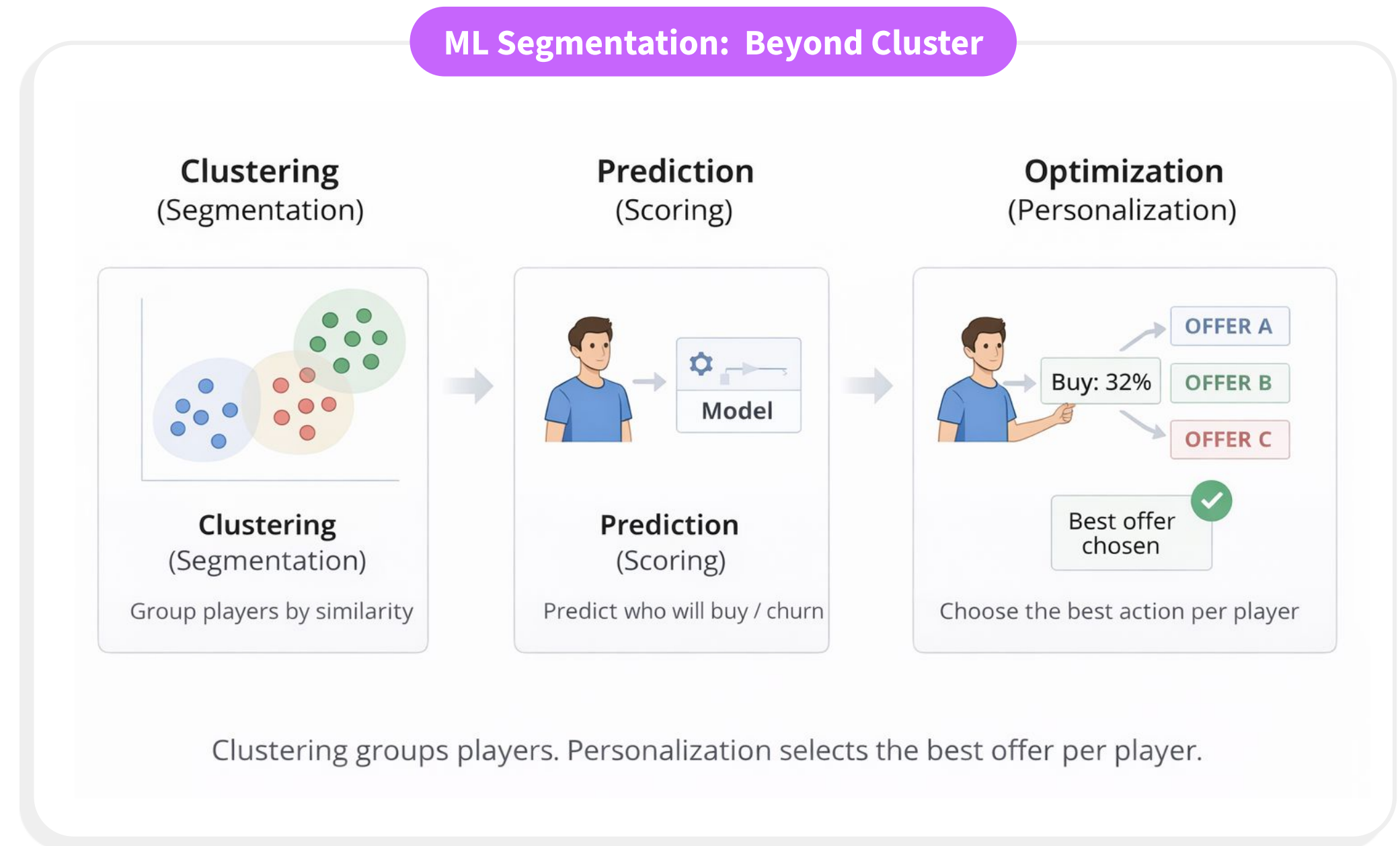
No matter how strong a system is – even one designed with deep analytics – ML can push it further.

- Processes more signals than any manual system
- Finds patterns humans miss
- Continuously adapts to player behavior
- At scale, you can start using even more parameters and dependencies

## Important Reality Check

- ML still requires **A/B testing**
- Results must be **carefully analyzed**
- ML only works properly at **large scale**

Without enough data, ML adds noise – not value.





# Offers as a System Designing Compatible Offers

# KPI First

The ultimate **Goal** is simple: **Maximize LTV**.

But **HOW** you get there defines what kind of offer system you should build.

Different KPIs → different strategies → different offer design.

## Maximize Conversion

**Goal:** get more players to make their purchase

**What works best:**

- Low-priced offers
- Clearly выгодные, easy-to-read bundles
- Strong visuals and marketing framing

## Average Transaction Value

**Goal:** make paying players spend more

**What works best:**

- Price ladder near the comfort zone
- Premium offers placed next to standard ones
- Clear extra value or unique rewards for higher tiers

## Drive Repeat Purchases

**Goal:** increase purchase frequency

**What works best:**

- Endless / Disco-style offers
- Stamp It or Loyalty mechanics
- Low starting price → repeat purchases → higher total spend

A strong offer system rarely focuses on one KPI only

The best systems **Combine all three** – but with a clear priority depending on your game, stage, and audience.



# Main Components

## Visualization

Are offers visually distinguishable?  
Can players instantly tell what is special  
and what is premium?

## Content Variety

Do different offers serve different player needs?  
Or are they just variations of the same bundle?

## Pricing Logic

Are price steps consistent across the system?  
Does pricing feel intentional – not random?  
Can players *understand* why one offer  
costs more than another?

## Value Balance

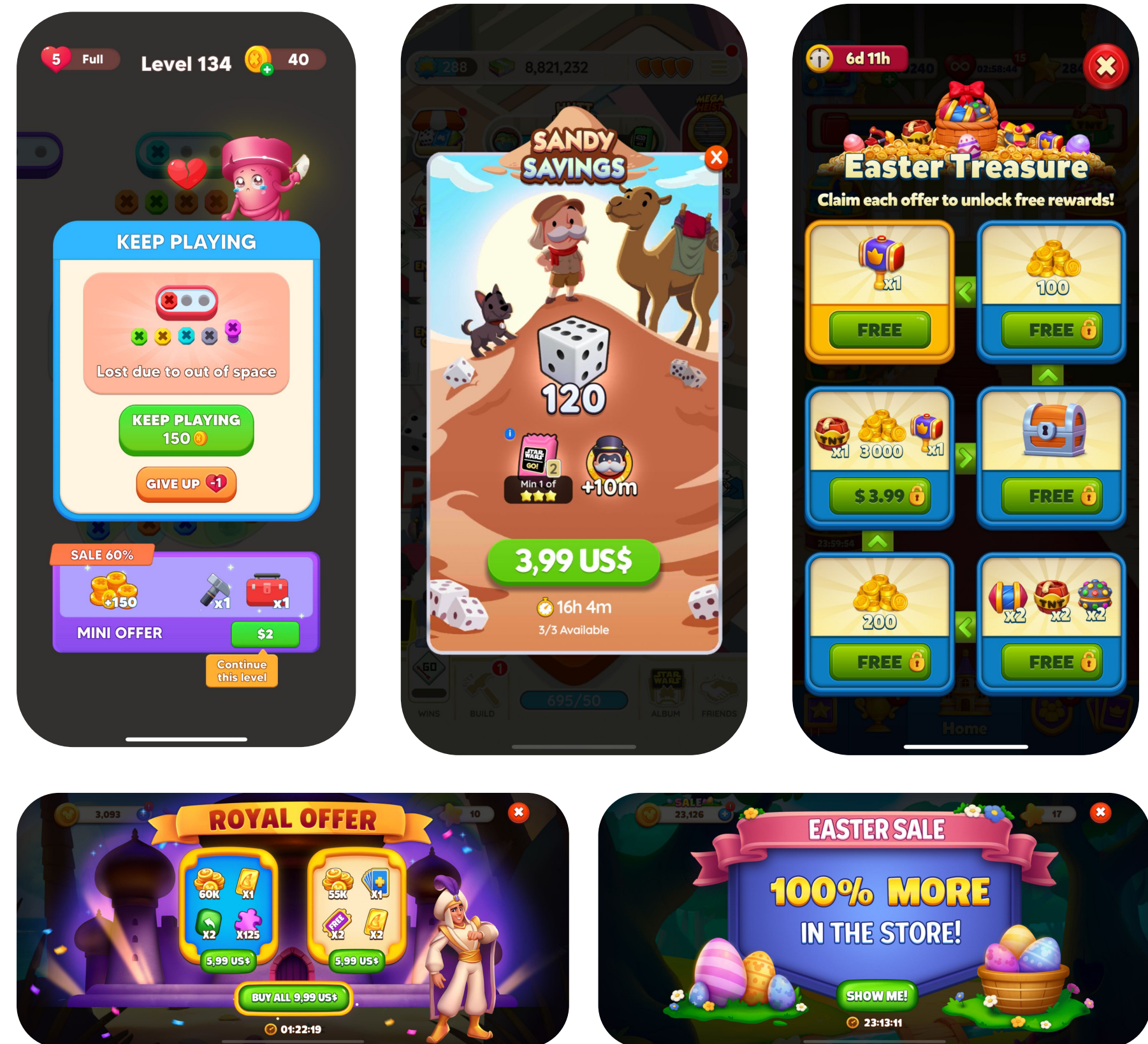
Do offers have different levels of profitability?  
Is the value gap between them clear and justified?

# Visualization

Above, we covered different offer types.  
They vary in perception – and different players gravitate toward different formats.

There's no need to launch everything at once:

- **2-3 offer types** are enough for a solid start
- **4-5 offer types** are ideal for a mature, well-balanced system





# Visual Tricks That Work

## Highlight the winning option

- Use **color, size, or framing** to draw attention to the best-value offer
- One offer should clearly feel like '*Best Value*'

## Show bonus value relative to the cheapest option in Shop

- Not the nearest price in Shop

## Bonus VS Discount

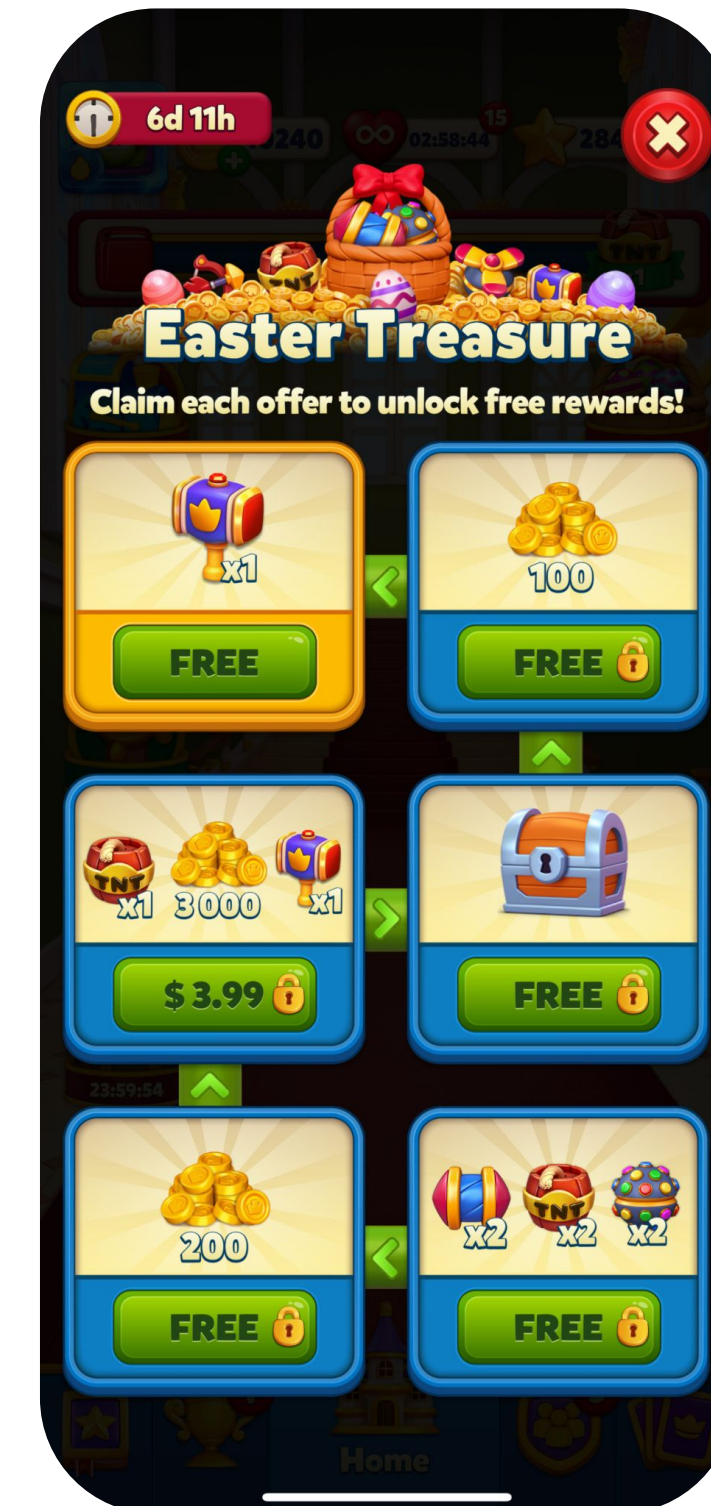
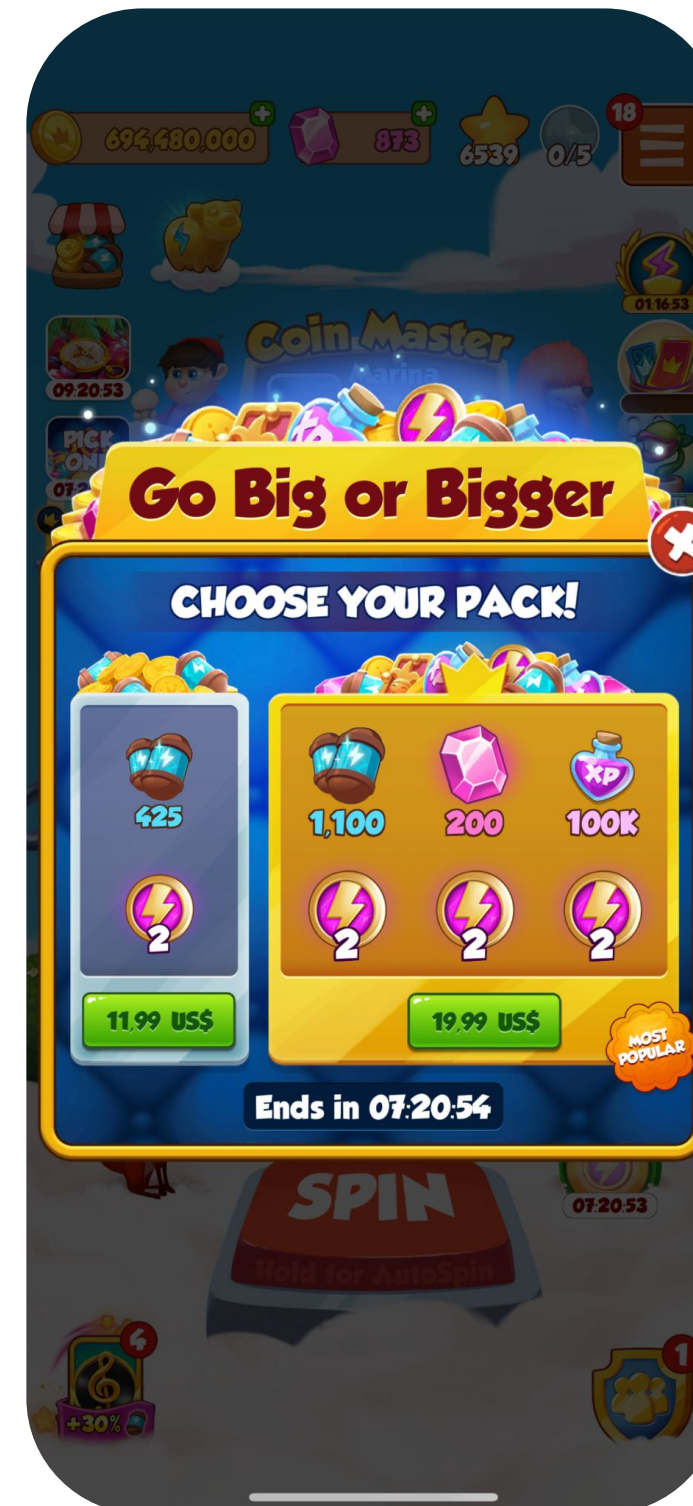
- '+100%' is much more popular, than '-30% OFF'

## FREE parts feel like real bonuses

- FREE items are psychologically processed as a **Gift**, not as part of the price

## Animations amplify value

- Use Animations to help emphasize large bonuses and visualize reward application





# Content Variety

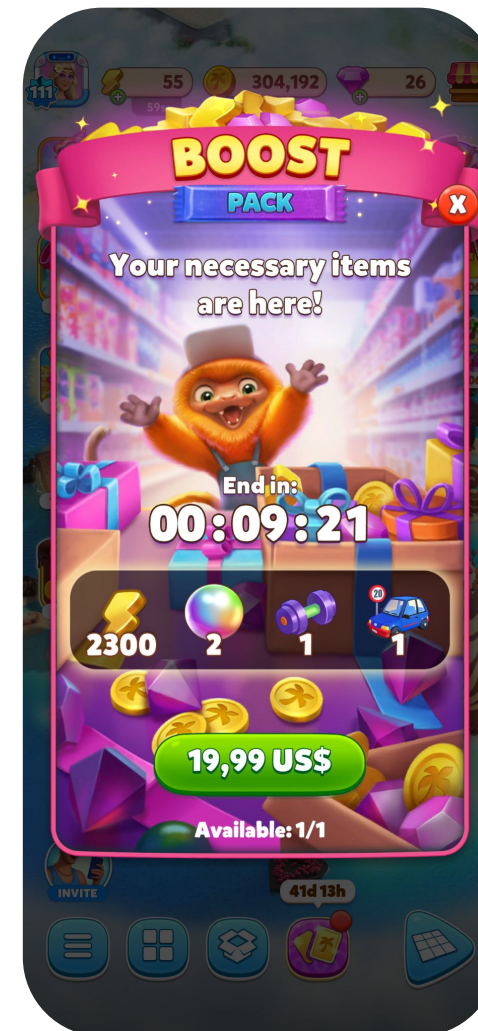
If all offers contain the same items with only a **10-15% value difference** – the system quickly becomes boring



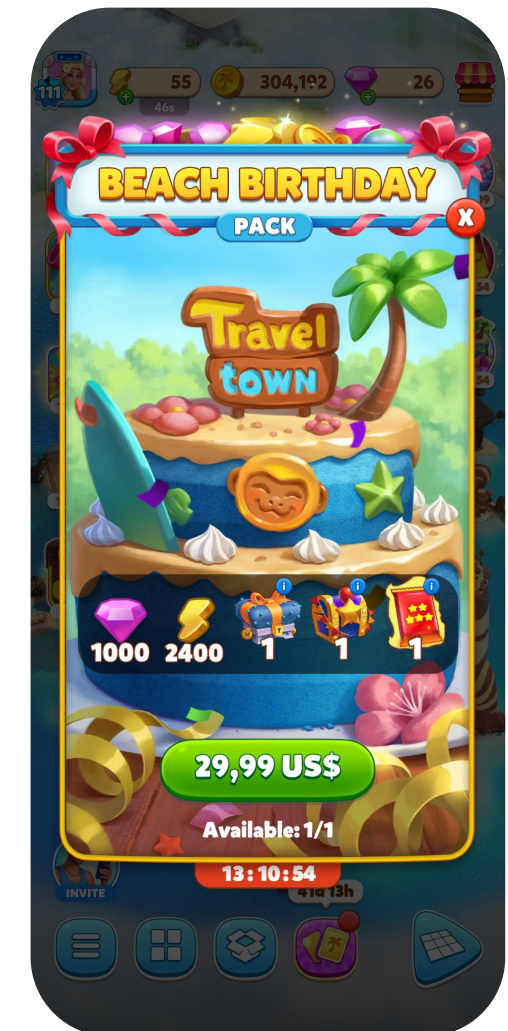
Different offers can lean toward different currencies: boosters, hard currency, side currencies



Use Event-Specific Content: Cards for Albums, Event currencies



Add Rare Resources. Instantly increase perceived value



Use Chests with reward ranges instead of exact numbers. Creates the chance-based excitement



# Pricing Logic

## Variety Beats Precision

### Imagine this situation:

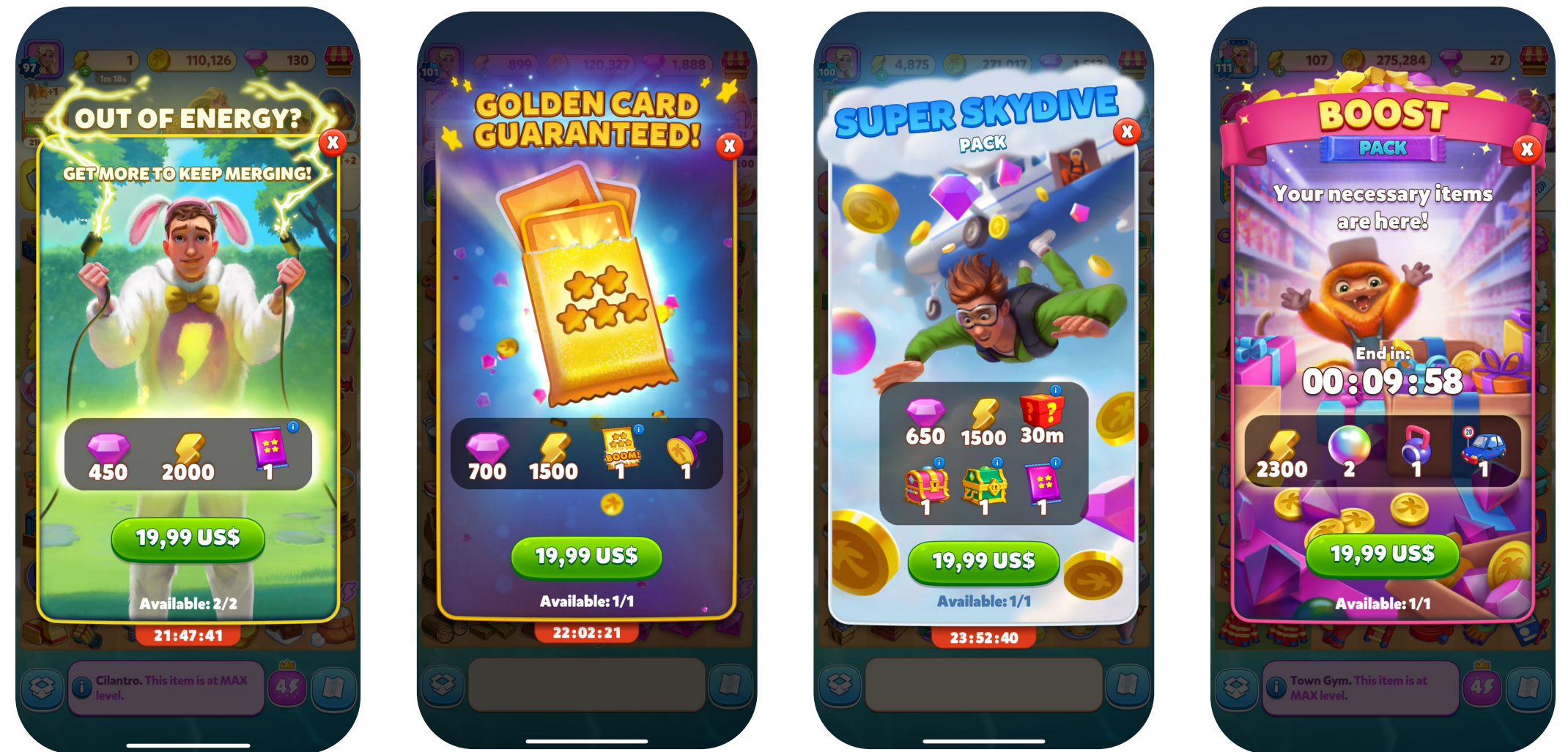
A player opens the game and sees  
**3 different offers – all priced at \$19.99.**

- Yes, looks like you hit the Average Transaction Value
- But:
  - offers feel interchangeable
  - there's no real choice
  - no price ladder

## Why Price Variety Matters

Different price points allow you to:

- introduce **meaningful variety**
- give players **real choice**
- gently move players to a **neighbor price tier**  
(up or down, without pressure)



You typically won't see this exact setup in-game – it's a mix from different days.  
But let's imagine these offers appeared side by side.

### What do we notice?

- Different visuals, even though the offer structure is the same
- Currency amounts vary, but not by much
  - a. Each one gives roughly 1.5-2K energy, 450-700 gems, plus some extras
- So you see 'four offers'... but there's **barely any real choice**

# Pricing Logic

## The System Trap

Offers are often balanced in isolation – and that’s the trap.

A single offer may look fine on its own, but break the logic of the **entire system**.

This is especially risky when: different offers have **different price ledder**

Every new offer must be checked inside the **system**.

- Not just: 'Is this offer good?'
- But: 'How does it look next to all other offers for this player?'

Offer 1

Avg Check	Price	Coins	Booster 1	Booster 2	Booster 3
1-10	7.99	5,000	1	1	1
10-30	19.99	20,000	3	3	3
30+	49.99	65,000	8	8	10

Offer 2

Avg Check	Price	Coins	Booster 1	Booster 2	Booster 3
1-5	3.99	1,000	1	1	
5-15	9.99	5,000	1	1	1
15-30	19.99	15,000	2	2	3
30-75	54.99	50,000	12	12	12
75+	74.99	80,000	20	20	20

## What You Need to Do

Build a **segmentation simulation**:

- Input player data  
(Recency, ATV, Total Money, etc.)
- Identify the player’s segment
- See **exactly which offers and prices** this player will see



	Avg Check	Price	Coins	Booster 1	Booster 2	Booster 3
Offer 1	1-5	7.99	5,000	1	1	1
Offer 2	1-5	3.99	1,000	1	1	
Offer 1	5-10	7.99	5,000	1	1	1
Offer 2	5-10	9.99	5,000	1	1	1
Offer 1	10-15	19.99	20,000	3	3	3
Offer 2	10-15	9.99	5,000	1	1	1
Offer 1	15-30	19.99	20,000	3	3	3
Offer 2	15-30	19.99	15,000	2	2	3
Offer 1	30-75	49.99	65,000	8	8	10
Offer 2	30-75	54.99	50,000	12	12	12
Offer 1	75+	49.99	65,000	8	8	10
Offer 2	75+	74.99	80,000	20	20	20

Almost identical content, but different prices (\$7.99 is clearly a bad deal).

Same price, but the second offer’s content is noticeably worse.

Value is split across different currencies – harder to judge, but both still feel good.



# Value & Bonuses

## When to Show, When to Hide

### If the value is truly high – show it clearly

- Use bold labels and highlights
- Compare value relative to the cheapest Shop purchase
- Make the advantage instantly readable

### If the value difference is small – make it implicit

- Shift value into:
  - event currencies
  - chance-based rewards / loot boxes
  - boosters (harder to evaluate)
- Reduce direct comparison

### Important reminder

Players usually estimate value at a glance, anchoring on the core currency.

It becomes the reference point for all comparisons

Even complex offers are anchored to this first impression.



Beautiful presentation shows ‘+200% More’ – but this applies only to the \$99.99 offer  
For the cheap \$5.99 offer, the real bonus is just +25% More



**Animation and Visuals** strongly amplify perception, highlighting the bonus part as ‘2X Bigger’, even when the actual value increase is modest



# Travel Town. Example 1



- Core content is consistent: **Energy + Gems**
- But each offer adds a different 'hook':
  - **2** = clean, standard bundle
  - **1 & 4** = extra layers (*chests + timed booster*) → harder to value, adds excitement, blurs comparison
  - **3** = strong focus item (*special card pack*) → 'unique value' framing, not just more currency

## What we see here

### 1) Different formats + triggers

Same economy goal, but delivered through different entry points:

- **Endless** (progress loop)
- **Out of Currency** (hard friction)
- **Daily Login** (session start)

### 2) Price variety creates real choice

Price range: **\$17.99 → \$34.99\***

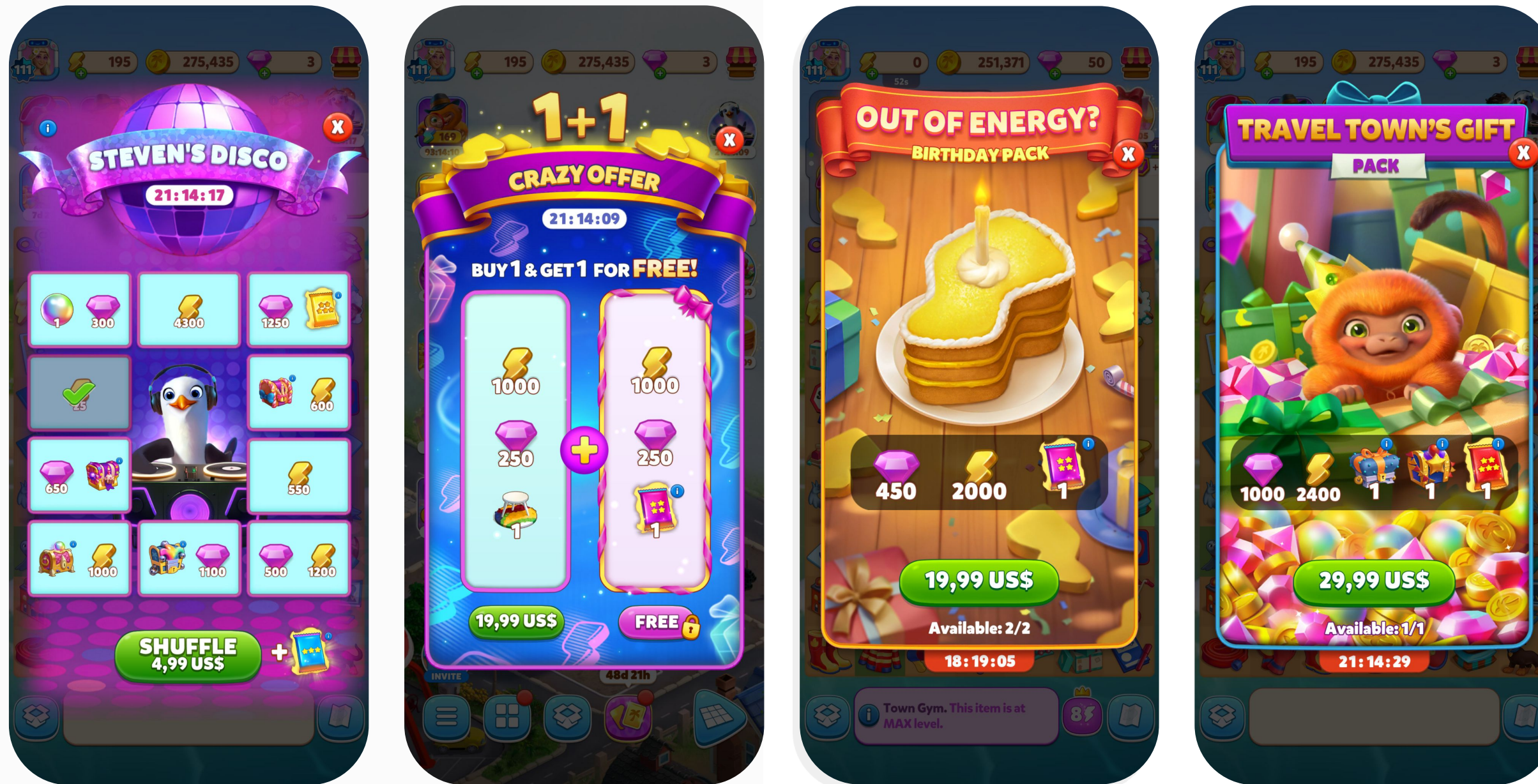
Works as a soft price ladder:

- easy to **stay in comfort zone**
- possible to **trade up**
- possible to **step down** without feeling 'downgraded'

*\*I usually pay \$19.99, sometimes \$4.99 / \$22.99 and only rarely \$29.99*



# Travel Town. Example 2



The principle here is similar:

- Different visual presentations
- Wide price range from **\$4.99 to \$29.99** (with a clear anchor around **\$19.99**)
- Non-standard content: chests, merge-chain items

A natural question arises:

**Isn't the \$4.99 Disco offer too cheap?**

This is where the offer mechanic matters:

- The offer is designed for a **series of purchases**
- Once a reward is claimed, it's removed from the pool → only the most attractive rewards remain
- Each next spin **costs more**

The common trap:

- You start with 'cheap' purchases: **\$4.99 → \$5.99 → \$6.99 → \$7.99**
- Each step feels well below your usual **\$19.99 comfort price**
- But after just 4 purchases, you've already spent: **\$25.96**

**As a Result: Cheap ≠ bad**



# Disney Solitaire. Example 1



## Same Principles in Action

**Wide price range: \$6.99 → \$22.99**

Closely matches real behavior:

- frequent purchases **up to \$14.99**,
- occasional **\$22.99**

Looks like a mix of **ATV logic** + **Max Payment** potential

## Low entry price (\$6.99)

- Designed for a **purchase sequence**, not a one-off deal → total value is unlocked through repeat buys

## Multiple Visualization formats

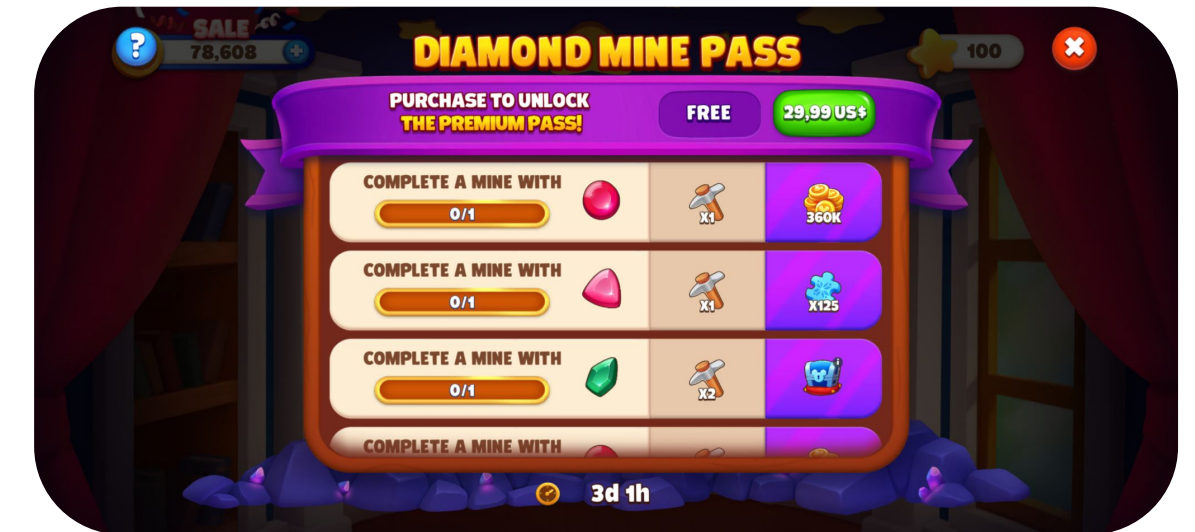
- 1+X FREE
- Endless + Currency
- Chain Activity
- Simple Login Offer

## Smart value distribution

- High value is anchored in coins
- Other currencies let players choose **which event or feature to focus on**



# Disney Solitaire. Example 2



Wide price range: \$4.99 → \$36.99

- \$4.99 is a low-friction entry, designed for **repeat purchases**
- \$36.99 looks premium and convincing:
  - **1.2M coins** – a strong psychological anchor (*1M+ feels 'Big'*)
  - at first glance, it appears **much more valuable** than nearby offers

Another Example – Wide Range, Clear Anchors

- Completely **different presentation** across all 6 offers  
→ each feels like a unique option, not just a variant





# Economy & Balance

# How to Calculate Value and Bonuses

## Start With a Clear Baseline

- Always define a **reference point**
- All value comparisons happen **relative to this Anchor**

## How to Define the Anchoring Point?

**1. Cheapest Shop Pack** – a single, universal reference point

- Used to compare all offers across the system
- Ensures internal consistency: This is your internal measuring unit.

**2. Nearest Price Point** – player baseline

- The closest Shop pack or Bundle by price
- Reflects **how players** actually compare offers

How players think:

- 'I'm ready to pay **\$10**'
- 'Which option around **\$10** is better?'
- Comparison happens against:
  - similar-priced offers
  - cheaper alternatives

### Shop

	Price	Coins	Coins / \$1	Bonus
1	\$1.99	1,000	503	0%
2	\$7.99	5,000	626	25%
3	\$14.99	10,000	667	33%
4	\$29.99	25,000	834	66%
5	\$59.99	50,000	833	66%
6	\$99.99	100,000	1,000	99%

### Offer

	Price	Coins	Coins / \$1	by the <i>smallest price</i> Bonus	by the <i>nearest price</i> Bonus
1	\$1.99	1,500	754	50%	50%
2	\$7.99	4,500	563	12%	-10%
3	\$14.99	10,000	667	33%	0%

The image clearly shows a **Comparison Trap**.

- When compared to the **Cheapest purchase**, all offers look good → **+12%** to **+50%** bonus
- BUT when compared to the **Nearest price point**, the picture changes:
  - the **\$7.99** offer becomes clearly **bad (-10%)** – it gives only **4.5K** coins instead of **5K**
  - the **\$14.99** offer is just **neutral (0%)** – no real advantage

### Result:

Out of 3 offers that look 'valuable' vs the cheapest pack – only 1 out of 3 is truly good in real player comparison.



# Balance: Anchoring Point

## Offer Systems Are Never Static

- An offer system is **not** something you set up once and forget.
- It's **alive and dynamic**. Every new: offer, event or feature – **reshapes the system**, even if you didn't touch existing offers.



## Example: Real Case

### Initial setup

- Offer value calculated vs cheapest Shop pack
- Average offer value: **100-200%**

### What changed

- A global +100% bonus to the entire Shop started running on ~95% of days

### What This Actually Means

- The baseline instantly became +50% stronger
- Your '1' – the reference point – moved
- Offer value effectively dropped
- Even though:
  - offer balance didn't change
  - prices didn't change

The system changed – because the base changed.

# Balance:

## The Real Value of the Purchase

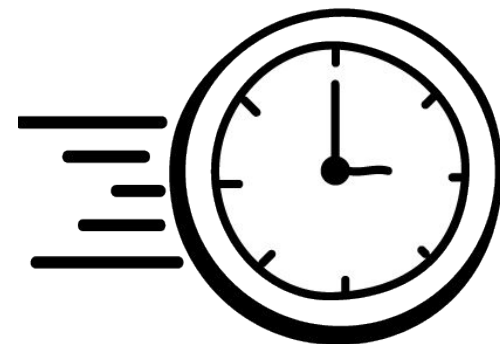
**Currency value is multi-dimensional** – and players subconsciously compare it across money, time, and progress.

### Money (IAP)



- \$ value
- Price point / ATV
- Comparison with real-life spend ('cup of coffee' logic)

### Time



- Waiting time skipped
- Gameplay time saved
- Fewer retries / faster completion

### Game / Event Progress



- Number of potential levels
- Number of boosters / attempts
- Amount of Event Currencies

### FREE Income



- How many levels to beat for the same reward
- How many bonuses to collect



# Other Life Hacks

## Track Currency Burn Rate

Always monitor **how fast players burn purchased currency**.

If burn is too slow, you have two options:

- **Increase sinks** (difficulty, costs, progression friction)
- **Reduce offer value**

Both work – but have very different side effects.

## Store Order Matters

Changing the **order of offers in the Shop**:

- shifts attention
- changes perceived value
- affects conversion – even if prices stay the same

Never treat order as cosmetic.

## Recalculate Your '1' Regularly

With every new offer, event, or bonus:

- re-evaluate your **baseline reference**
- recheck value ratios across the system

A stable balance can break silently.

## New Offer: Growth or Cannibalization?

Every new offer should answer one question:

- Is this **incremental revenue**
- or just **redistribution**?

If it only steals conversion from existing offers – it's not growth.

Every change has a system-level impact. **If you don't check the system - the system will check you.**



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