It's Actually Math

You get a job, your base pay is $200/wk plus a 10% commission, you try to determine the amount earned for the week if you sell $1,000, $2,000 or $5,000 worth of merchandise.

For many, they plug in numbers for the amount of merchandise sold and get a feel for their pay.

Earnings = Base pay + 10%($ amount sold)

Or

E = 200 + .10 d, where 200 is base pay and d is $ amount sold

In an algebra class, that would look like

$$y = \frac{1}{10}x + 200$$

Utility Bills

Utility bills are also described by some base amount,
then a charge for the gas, water or electricity used.

For a visualization, especially for tiered pricing, a graph is used so consumers can beat
understand the more they use, the price per unit increases. For these purposed, they
use a piecemeal equation with a corresponding graph.