

FINANCIAL

Freedom



BUDGET PLANNER

& Bill Tracker

- Monthly Budget
- Debt Payoff
- Expense Trackers
- Savings Trackers
- Financial Tips

Unlock complete control over your finances with this comprehensive Guide. Get your easy-to-use Google Sheets designed to help you manage, track, and optimize your financial journey. Whether you're looking to budget, track expenses, pay off debt, or save for future goals, this bundle includes everything you need to get Started with your financial journey

Included Sheets:

- Budget Planner
- Monthly Budget Planner
- Expense Tracker
- Debt Tracker
- Credit Card Debt Payoff Tracker
- Credit Card Payoff Plan
- Payoff Tracker
- Savings Challenge
- Savings Tracker
- Grocery List
- Weekly Meal Planner
- Money Routine
- Expense List
- Financial Goal Planner

Why Choose the Financial Planning Bundle?

Comprehensive: Everything you need in one easy-to-use set of tools.

Customizable: Tailor each sheet to your unique financial situation.

Organized: Never miss a payment, a savings goal, or an important expense again.

Motivating: Stay on track with clear goals and actionable steps.

All-in-one Solution: From budgeting to paying off debt to meal planning, it's all covered.



Financial Tips *For Growing Wealth*

01



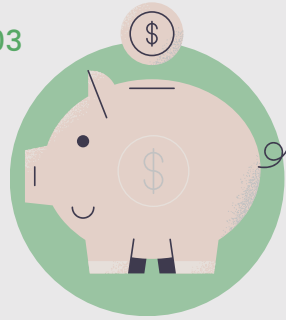
Find out where you are over spending

02



Set a Budget

03



Start With 1,000 Emergency Fund

04



Pay Off Debt

05



Save 3-6 months of Emergency

06



Invest 15%-20% of income

THEMILEHAMS.COM

[SEE MORE RESOURCES](#)

Personal Finance

Checklist

✓ Organize Your Accounts and Get an Overview of Your Assets and Liabilities

✓ Figure Out where your money is going.

✓ Change your habits and behaviors. Stop spending money on wants.

✓ Create a Budget and Stick to It!

✓ Start Building an Emergency Savings Account

✓ Use The debt tracker and start paying off debt



SIMPLE STEPS TO IMPROVE YOUR FINANCES: WHAT TO STOP AND WHAT TO START



1. Stop Saving to Spend, Start Saving to Earn

Instead of saving just to buy things, shift your mindset to save for investments that generate income or grow your wealth. Put your money into opportunities that multiply, like stocks, bonds, or a business. Let your savings work for you.

2. Stop Overspending on Liabilities, Start Buying Assets

Liabilities like cars, clothes, and gadgets lose value over time. Instead, focus on acquiring assets that grow your wealth, such as real estate, stocks, or investments that provide returns and create financial security.

3. Stop Being House Poor, Start Investing in Income-Producing Ventures

Your rent or mortgage should be no more than 30% of your income. If housing costs are eating up too much of your budget, it's time to reconsider. Use your extra income to invest in something that generates more money, such as rental properties, stocks, or a small business.

4. Stop Ignoring Your Credit, Start Managing It

Your credit score can either open doors or close them. Monitor your credit regularly, pay your bills on time, and take steps to improve your score. This will give you access to better financial opportunities and lower interest rates.

5. Stop Procrastinating on Saving for Retirement, Start Saving Aggressively

The earlier you start saving for retirement, the more time your money has to grow. Don't put it off—begin contributing to your retirement accounts now, and increase your savings aggressively over time. Your future self will thank you.

6. Stop Living at or Above Your Means, Live Below Your Means

Living paycheck to paycheck or overspending can prevent you from achieving your financial goals. Cut back on unnecessary expenses and live below your means so you can save, invest, and build wealth for the future.

7. Stop Thinking Nothing Bad Will Happen, Plan for Setbacks

Life is full of unexpected events—car repairs, medical emergencies, job loss. Build an emergency fund with 3 to 6 months of living expenses so you're prepared for whatever comes your way.

8. Stop Winging It, Start Planning

Success with money doesn't happen by accident. Create a budget, set financial goals, and make a plan for how you'll achieve them. Planning puts you in control and helps you avoid financial surprises.



9. Stop Wasting Precious Time, Start Learning About Finances

Take the time to educate yourself on personal finance. Whether it's reading books, taking courses, or watching videos, the more you learn, the better equipped you'll be to make informed decisions and grow your wealth.

10. Stop Doing It Alone, Start Talking to Others

Don't be afraid to ask for help when it comes to managing your money. Talk to financial advisors, mentors, or even friends who are financially savvy. Learning from others can provide insights you might not have considered.

11. Start a Purchasing Policy, Stop Buying Emotionally

Before making purchases, establish a personal purchasing policy. Avoid buying impulsively or emotionally. Give yourself time to consider whether a purchase is necessary, and make sure it fits within your financial plan.

12. Start Improving Your Credit Score, Stop Being Passive About It

A good credit score is essential for getting loans, mortgages, or even renting an apartment. Don't be passive—actively work on improving your credit by paying off debt, disputing inaccuracies, and staying on top of payments.

13. Start Hustling, Stop Living for Leisure

If you want to grow financially, you'll need to put in the work. Whether it's starting a side hustle, investing in new skills, or finding ways to earn more, hustle now so you can enjoy financial freedom later.

14. Stop Being Stingy, Practice Generosity

Generosity isn't just about giving money—it's about adopting a mindset of abundance. Giving, whether to causes you care about or those in need, creates positive financial energy and often leads to greater personal fulfillment.

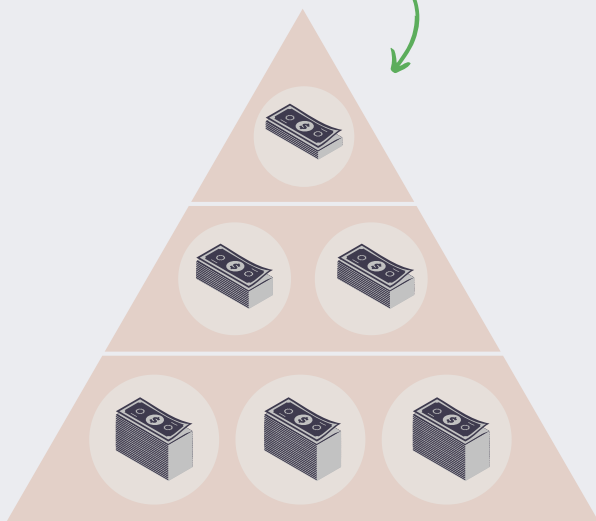
WAYS TO PAY OFF *debt*



Debt Snowball

Focus on paying off the smallest debt first. Then move on to the second largest and so on.

Start Here



Debt Avalanche

Focus on paying off the highest interest debt first. Then move on to second highest interest and so on.

Start Here



The Debt Snowball *Checklist*



LIST YOUR DEBTS FROM
SMALLEST TO LARGEST



MAKE MINIMUM PAYMENTS
ON ALL DEBTS EXCPET
THE SMALLEST



PAY AS MUCH AS YOU
CAN
ON THE SMALLEST DEBT



KEEP ROLLING YOUR
PAYED OFF DEBT TO
NEXT DEBT UNTIL EACH
DEBT IS PAID OFF



The Debt Avalanche

Checklist



LIST YOUR DEBTS
INTEREST RATE FROM
LARGEST % TO SMALLEST%



MAKE MINIMUM PAYMENTS
ON ALL DEBTS EXCPET
THE ONE WITH HIGHEST
INTEREST



PAY AS MUCH AS YOU CAN
ON THE DEBT



KEEP ROLLING YOUR
PAYED OFF DEBT TO
NEXT DEBT UNTIL EACH
DEBT IS PAID OFF



Payoff

CREDIT CARD

CREDIT CARD NAME: _____

BALANCE: _____ INTEREST RATE: _____ LIMIT: _____

GOAL PAYOFF TIMELINE: _____

FIND BASE PAY INSER BALANCE AND DEVIDE IT BY YOUR GOLAL TIME LINE

BALANCE ÷ TIMELINE IN MONTHS = BASEPAY

FIND THE INTEREST RATE PAYMENTS

BALLANCE × INTEREST RATE ÷ 12 = INTEREST PAYMENT

FIND THE AMOUNT YOU WILL PAY PER MONTH THIS WILL INC INTEREST AND BASE PAY

BASE PAYMENT + INTEREST PAYMENT = FINAL MONTHLY PAY



DO NOT SPEND ON CARDS

JANUARY		JULY	
FEBRUARY		AUGUST	
MARCH		SEPTEMBER	
APRIL		OCTOBER	
MAY		NOVEMBER	
JUNE		TOTAL PAID	



BUILD CREDIT WITH A DEBIT CARD



Build Credit without over spending



Earn cash back



Daily Auto Pay

Download the fizz app

**Use something like the Fizz
card that builds credit**



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EVERYDAY INDULGENCES: HOW THEY AFFECT YOUR BUDGET AND FUTURE

It's easy to overlook the small, daily indulgences that seem harmless in the moment, but over time, they can significantly impact your financial health. These seemingly minor expenses—like grabbing a latte every morning or ordering takeout a few times a week—add up, and they can silently drain your budget if left unchecked.

The Impact of Everyday Indulgences

Things like a daily coffee run, subscription services you don't really use, or impulse shopping for clothes and gadgets may seem insignificant when looked at individually.

However, when you consider the cumulative effect over a month or a year, these everyday indulgences can take a large bite out of your savings. For example, at an average cost of \$5-8 per coffee, spending on this habit daily can easily add up to over \$2,000 a year. This is money that could have been put towards paying off debt, saved or invested for your future.

The real issue with these indulgences isn't just the cost itself, but the opportunity cost—the money you're not putting into savings, paying down debt, or investing for future growth.

Borrowing from Your Future Self

One of the most tempting ways to indulge in immediate gratification is using credit cards. When you swipe that card for something you can't really afford right now, you're essentially borrowing from your future self. It's easy to forget that every time you charge something to your credit card without paying it off immediately, you're adding debt that your future self will have to pay back—with interest. Lots and lots of interest. Some times over tripling the cost of the initial purchase.

The feeling of gratification you get from making a purchase fades quickly, but the burden of debt can stick around for years. This not only limits your future financial freedom but also leads to stress and more difficult decisions later on, as you have to figure out how to pay off debts that have accumulated.

Failing to Plan for the Future

When people don't track their everyday indulgences and continue overspending, they often neglect more important financial priorities. How to figure out your indulgences or unnecessary spending.

#1 DEEP DIVE LOOK INTO YOUR STATEMENTS (TRACK YOUR EXPENSES)

HIGHLIGHT EVERY LINE ITEM THAT IS NOT A NEED

#2 CHANGE YOUR HABITS UNDERSTAND THE SEVERITY OF YOUR DECISIONS

#3 ACTUALLY WRITE OUT A BUDGET

#4 BI WEEKLY LOOK AT BUDGET AND ASSESS WHERE YOU'RE DOING GOOD AND WHAT IMPROVEMENTS NEED TO GET MADE



BUDGET

Planner

INCOME	AMOUNT
TOTAL:	

DEBT	PAID
TOTAL:	

FIXED EXPENSES	BUDGET	SPENT
TOTAL:		

VARIABLE EXPENSES	BUDGET	SPENT
TOTAL:		

SAVINGS	SAVED
TOTAL:	

TOTAL BUDGET		-	TOTAL SPENT		=	
--------------	--	---	-------------	--	---	--



SAVINGS

challenge

SAVING FOR: GOAL:

MONTH	DATE	DEPOSIT	BALANCE	NOTES
JANUARY				
FEBRUARY				
MARCH				
APRIL				
MAY				
JUNE				
JULY				
AUGUST				
SEPTEMBER				
OCTOBER				
NOVEMBER				

SAVING FOR: GOAL:

MONTH	DATE	DEPOSIT	BALANCE	NOTES
JANUARY				
FEBRUARY				
MARCH				
APRIL				
MAY				
JUNE				
JULY				
AUGUST				
SEPTEMBER				
OCTOBER				
NOVEMBER				



money

Routine

DATE: _____

DAILY	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
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WEEKLY	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
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<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	

MONTHLY	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
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<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	

TO DO LIST

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

MOTIVATION

NOTE



MONEY Wins

Celebrate Your Self!

WINS

WINS

01

JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

TO DO

NOTE



THE MILEHAMS

02

FEBRUARY

2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

TO DO

NOTE



03

MARCH 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

TO DO

NOTE



04

APRIL 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

TO DO

NOTE



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05

MAY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

TO DO

NOTE



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06

JUNE
2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

TO DO

NOTE



07

JULY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

TO DO

NOTE



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08

AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

TO DO

NOTE



09

SEPTEMBER

2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

TO DO

NOTE



10

OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

TO DO

NOTE



11

NOVEMBER

2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

TO DO

NOTE



12

DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

TO DO

NOTE



Get Weekly Meal Plans for your budget



1 Click



=

FREE DELIVERY

Join the Frugal Foodies Club

SCAN ME



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WEEKLY MEALS

planner

Week of: _____

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
BREAKFAST LUNCH DINNER SNACK	BREAKFAST LUNCH DINNER SNACK	BREAKFAST LUNCH DINNER SNACK
Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BREAKFAST LUNCH DINNER SNACK	BREAKFAST LUNCH DINNER SNACK	BREAKFAST LUNCH DINNER SNACK
Sunday	NOTES:	
BREAKFAST LUNCH DINNER SNACK		



Grocery LIST

WEEK _____

DATE _____

MEAT / FISH

PRODUCE

DRY GOODS

BAKING / DAIRY

HOUSEHOLD

OTHERS



YOUR CAR IS KEEPING YOU POOR



One of the biggest financial traps people fall into is overextending themselves on car payments. While cars are essential for many, the way we finance them can significantly impact our long-term financial health. If you're constantly struggling with car payments, it may be time to rethink your approach.

A good rule of thumb to avoid getting financially burdened by a vehicle is the 20/3/8 rule. If you must finance a car, follow these guidelines:

- 20% down payment: Always aim to put down at least 20% of the car's total price.
- 3-year loan: Limit your car loan to no more than 3 years to minimize interest costs.
- Payments should not exceed 8% of your income: Your monthly car payment shouldn't exceed 8% of your gross monthly income.

However, the best financial plan is to pay cash for a used car. Buying a reliable, used vehicle outright helps you avoid monthly payments altogether, meaning more of your money stays in your pocket. You'll be able to focus on saving, investing, or paying off other debts—keeping your financial health in check.



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TIPS FOR BUYING CARS

Consider buying used car



Decide your overall budget



Finance a vehicle use 20/3/8 rule



Don't get pressured into buying



Take car to mechanic to get checked out



UNDERSTANDING CREDIT SCORES: HOW TO INCREASE AND MANAGE YOUR SCORE

YOUR CREDIT SCORE IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS IN YOUR FINANCIAL HEALTH. IT DETERMINES YOUR ELIGIBILITY FOR LOANS, CREDIT CARDS, AND EVEN RENTAL AGREEMENTS. IF YOU WANT TO IMPROVE AND MANAGE YOUR CREDIT SCORE EFFECTIVELY, IT'S IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IMPACTS IT AND HOW TO TAKE CONTROL.

Here's a breakdown of the key components:

1. Payment History (35%)

The biggest part of your credit score is your payment history. Lenders want to know that you consistently pay your bills on time. Missed or late payments can severely hurt your score, so it's crucial to stay on top of all your credit accounts and pay on time, every time.

2. Credit Utilization (30%)

How much of your available credit are you using? Keeping your credit card balances low, ideally under 30% of your total credit limit, can positively impact your score. High balances signal risk to lenders, while low utilization shows you're responsible with credit.

3. Length of Credit History (15%)

The longer your credit accounts have been open, the better it is for your score. This shows lenders that you have experience managing credit over time. If possible, keep older accounts open, as closing them can shorten your credit history.

4. New Credit (10%)

Every time you apply for new credit, it can temporarily lower your score due to the hard inquiry on your report. While new credit is sometimes necessary, avoid opening too many new accounts at once.

5. Credit Mix (10%)

Having a mix of different types of credit—such as credit cards, auto loans, and mortgages—can boost your score. It shows that you can manage various forms of debt responsibly.

To improve and maintain a strong credit score, focus on making consistent on-time payments, keeping your balances low, avoiding unnecessary new credit inquiries, and managing a diverse range of credit products. By being mindful of these factors, you can build and sustain a healthy credit score that opens doors to financial opportunities.



TOP WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR CREDIT SCORE



Your credit score plays a crucial role in your financial life. It affects your ability to get approved for loans, secure low interest rates, and even rent an apartment. If you're looking to improve your credit score, here are some actionable steps to help you build and maintain a strong score:

1. Pay Your Bills on Time (35% of your score)

Your payment history is the most important factor, making up 35% of your credit score. Late payments can have a significant negative impact on your score, so it's essential to stay on top of your bills. Set up reminders or **automatic payments** to avoid missing due dates. Even if it's just the minimum payment, making sure your payments are on time is key to maintaining a good credit score.

2. Keep Your Credit Utilization Low

Credit utilization, or how much of your available credit you're using, accounts for 30% of your credit score. A good rule of thumb is to keep your credit card balances under 30% of your total credit limit. For example, if your credit card has a limit of \$10,000, try to keep your balance below \$3,000. High balances can signal to lenders that you're overextended, which may hurt your score.

3. Don't Close Old Accounts

The length of your credit history makes up 15% of your score, so it's important to keep older accounts open if possible. Closing an old credit card can shorten your credit history, which could lower your score. Even if you're not using an old account regularly, keeping it open (as long as it doesn't carry an annual fee) can help improve your overall credit profile.

4. Limit New Credit Applications

When you apply for new credit, lenders perform a "hard inquiry" on your credit report, which can temporarily lower your score. New credit applications account for 10% of your score. If you're trying to improve your credit, avoid applying for multiple credit cards or loans within a short time frame. Space out your credit applications to minimize the impact on your score.

5. Diversify Your Credit Mix

Having a mix of different types of credit, such as credit cards, auto loans, or mortgages, makes up 10% of your credit score. Lenders like to see that you can responsibly manage different types of debt. If you've only had one type of credit, consider diversifying your credit mix when it makes financial sense to do so.

6. Regularly Check Your Credit Report

Errors on your credit report can drag down your score. Checking your credit report regularly allows you to spot and dispute any mistakes. You're entitled to a free credit report from each of the three major credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion). Make sure all the information is accurate, and if you find any errors, report them immediately. Us app like credit Karma.

7. Pay Off Debt Strategically

If you're carrying multiple balances, focus on paying down your highest-interest debts first or consider the snowball method (paying off smaller balances first to gain momentum). As you pay down your debt, your credit utilization will decrease, positively affecting your credit score.

8. Keep Balances on Revolving Accounts Low

Credit cards and lines of credit are considered revolving accounts, and having a high balance on these accounts can negatively impact your credit score. Make it a goal to pay off these balances regularly and avoid carrying a balance month-to-month if possible.



9. Set Up Automatic Payments

One easy way to ensure you never miss a payment is by setting up automatic payments. Even if it's just the minimum payment, it will help you avoid late fees and protect your credit score.

10. Be Patient

Building and improving your credit score takes time. Focus on consistently making smart financial choices, such as paying on time, keeping your balances low, and not opening unnecessary credit accounts. With patience and persistence, your score will improve.

Improving your credit score is an ongoing process, but by following these steps, you'll set yourself up for better financial opportunities in the future. Good credit means access to lower interest rates, better loan terms, and more financial freedom. Start today and watch your credit score climb!

How to Properly Review Your Credit Card Statement

Understanding your credit card statement is the first step toward taking control of your finances. Here's a simple guide to help you review your statement, identify key details like interest rates, and develop a strategy to pay off your card efficiently.

1. Reading Your Credit Card Statement

Every credit card statement contains important information that you should review each month:

- **Balance:** This is the total amount you owe, including any new purchases, interest, and fees.
- **Minimum Payment:** The smallest amount you must pay to avoid late fees and potential penalties. However, paying only the minimum won't significantly reduce your debt.
- **Interest Rate (APR):** This is the Annual Percentage Rate (APR), or the interest you pay on your outstanding balance. You can find this in the "Interest Charge Calculation" section of your statement.
- **Payment Due Date:** The date by which you need to make at least the minimum payment to avoid late fees.



Tip: Your interest is compounded, meaning you are charged interest on both your original balance and any interest from the previous month.

2. Understanding How Long It Will Take to Pay Off

Credit card statements now include a section called the Minimum Payment Warning, which shows how long it will take to pay off your balance if you only make the minimum payments. It also shows how much interest you will pay over that time.

For example, if you owe 3,971 with a 30% interest rate and only pay the minimum, it could take 14 years to pay off and cost you thousands of dollars in interest.

Account Summary/Payment Information

Previous Balance	\$3,850.86
Payments and Other Credits	\$0.00
Purchases and Adjustments	\$0.00
Fees Charged	\$40.00
Interest Charged	\$80.18
<hr/>	
New Balance Total	\$3,971.04
Total Credit Line	\$4,500.00
Total Credit Available	\$528.96
Cash Credit Line	\$900.00
Portion of Credit Available for Cash	\$528.96
Statement Closing Date	06/23/2024
Days in Billing Cycle	31

New Balance Total	\$3,971.04
Current Payment Due	\$158.00
Past Due Amount	\$413.00
<hr/>	
Total Minimum Payment Due	\$571.00
Payment Due Date	07/20/2024

Late Payment Warning: If we do not receive your Total Minimum Payment by the date listed above, you may have to pay a late fee of up to \$40.00 and your APRs may be increased up to the Penalty APR of 29.99%.

Total Minimum Payment Warning: If you make only the Total Minimum Payment each period, you will pay more in interest and it will take you longer to pay off your balance. For example:

If you make no additional charges using this card and each month you pay	You will payoff the balance shown on this statement in about	And you will end up paying an estimated total of
Only the Total Minimum Payment	14 years	\$9,450.00

If you would like information about credit counseling services, call 866.300.5238.

Why Credit cards keep you poor



If you only make the minimum payments, which is 4% of \$3,971 = 158 a month, here's what happens:

1. At 30% interest, the daily interest rate is approximately 0.0822% (30% ÷ 365 days).
2. After the first month, interest is added to your balance daily, so after making a payment, a significant amount of what you pay will be interest, not principal.

DO NOT BECOME THIS PERSON BEHIND ON PAYMENTS, ON TOP OF 30% INTEREST MAKING ONLY. MIN PAYMENTS

Account Summary/Payment Information

Previous Balance	\$3,850.86
Payments and Other Credits	\$0.00
Purchases and Adjustments	\$0.00
Fees Charged	\$40.00
Interest Charged	\$80.18
<hr/>	
New Balance Total	\$3,971.04
Total Credit Line	\$4,500.00
Total Credit Available	\$528.96
Cash Credit Line	\$900.00
Portion of Credit Available for Cash	\$528.96
Statement Closing Date	06/23/2024
Days in Billing Cycle	31

New Balance Total	\$3,971.04
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<hr/>	
Total Minimum Payment Due	\$571.00
Payment Due Date	07/20/2024

Late Payment Warning: If we do not receive your Total Minimum Payment by the date listed above, you may have to pay a late fee of up to \$40.00 and your APRs may be increased up to the Penalty APR of 29.99%.
Total Minimum Payment Warning: If you make only the Total Minimum Payment each period, you will pay more in interest and it will take you longer to pay off your balance. For example:

If you make no additional charges using this card and each month you pay	You will payoff the balance shown on this statement in about	And you will end up paying an estimated total of
Only the Total Minimum Payment	14 years	\$9,450.00

If you would like information about credit counseling services, call 866.300.5238.

USING A TYPICAL DEBT AMORTIZATION FOR THIS SCENARIO:

- IT WOULD TAKE ALMOST 14 YEARS TO PAY OFF THIS BALANCE.
- YOU WOULD END UP PAYING OVER \$9,450 IN TOTAL, INCLUDING INTEREST, JUST TO PAY OFF THE ORIGINAL \$3,971.

How Does Compound Interest Work?

Credit card interest is usually compounded daily. This means that every day, interest is added to your balance, which is then used to calculate the next day's interest. This compounding effect causes your debt to grow more quickly than if interest were charged just once a month or year.

Here's how compounding interest works:

- If you don't pay off the full balance each month, interest is charged on the remaining balance.
- The next month, you're not only paying interest on the original balance, but also on the interest that was added last month.
- Over time, this can significantly increase the total amount you owe.

Why Minimum Payments Are Dangerous

Minimum payments seem manageable, but because of the high interest rate and daily compounding, they keep you in debt for a long time. Most of your payments go toward interest, so the principal balance shrinks very slowly. This is how credit card companies make money—they rely on compounding interest and minimum payments to keep you paying for years.

Using Debt to Your Advantage: A Beginner's Guide



Debt can be a powerful tool if used wisely, but it's important to understand how to manage it responsibly. While many people associate debt with financial struggles, when used strategically, debt can actually help you build wealth, improve your credit score, and provide financial flexibility. In this beginner guide, we'll cover the basics of how to use debt to your advantage and how to take advantage of credit cards for beginners.

1. Understanding Good Debt vs. Bad Debt

Before diving into how to use debt strategically, it's important to understand the difference between good debt and bad debt:

- **Good Debt:** This type of debt is used to purchase assets that have the potential to increase in value or generate income. Examples include student loans for education, mortgages for real estate, or small business loans. These types of debt can provide long-term financial benefits if managed well. **Key word** Managed Well
- **Bad Debt:** This type of debt is used to purchase things that lose value over time or don't contribute to your financial growth. Credit card debt for Non Essentials, luxury items, expensive cars, or vacations are examples of bad debt. This kind of debt typically comes with high-interest rates and does not provide a return on investment.

2. How to Use Credit Cards Wisely

Credit cards can be a helpful financial tool, but they can also lead to serious debt if mismanaged. Here are the steps to take advantage of credit cards as a beginner without falling into financial traps.

One of the main advantages of using a credit card is that it allows you to build a strong credit score. Your credit score is a key factor in obtaining loans, renting apartments, and sometimes even getting jobs. Here's how to build credit using a card:

- **Start with a secured credit card: (FIZ CARD)** If you're new to credit, you might start with a secured card. This type of card requires you to put down a deposit, which then becomes your credit limit. Over time, responsible use can lead to an unsecured card.
- **Make on-time payments:** Your payment history makes up 35% of your credit score, so it's crucial to always pay at least the minimum payment by the due date. Setting up automatic payments can help with this.
- **Keep your balances low:** Your credit utilization ratio—the amount of available credit you're using—affects 30% of your score. To maintain a good credit score, keep your credit card balances under 30% of your credit limit.

Take Advantage of Rewards **Don't let rewards take advantage of you.**

Many credit cards offer cashback, points, or travel rewards for using them. If you pay off your balance in full every month, you can earn these rewards without paying interest, which is like getting free money.

- **Avoid overspending:** The key to benefiting from rewards is to treat your credit card like a debit card. Only spend what you can afford to pay off in full each month, Check to see if your interest is charged more than points. if so your getting played by the credit card company and your getting taken advantage of. The interest charges will wipe out the rewards.

3. Leverage Debt to Build Wealth

Debt doesn't have to be a burden; it can be a tool for wealth-building when used strategically. Here's how:

Invest in Real Estate

Real estate can be one of the most effective ways to use debt to your advantage. By using a mortgage, you can purchase property that can appreciate in value over time or generate rental income. As you pay down the mortgage, you build equity, increasing your net worth.

Use Low-Interest Loans to Grow Your Business

If you're an entrepreneur, using a low-interest loan to invest in your business can be a smart use of debt. By borrowing money to expand operations, purchase inventory, or develop new products, you can potentially increase your business's revenue and profits.

Student Loans for Education

If used wisely, student loans can be considered good debt because education often leads to higher-paying jobs. However, it's important to borrow only what you need and to consider the return on investment for your chosen field of study.

4. Avoid Common Credit Card Mistakes

While credit cards offer many benefits, they can also lead to financial trouble if mismanaged. Avoid these common mistakes:

- **Carrying a balance:** Always aim to pay off your credit card in full each month. Interest on unpaid balances can accumulate quickly, especially with the high-interest rates that most credit cards have.
- **Only making minimum payments:** Paying only the minimum each month means most of your payment goes toward interest, not reducing your balance. This can keep you in debt for years.
- **Using credit to fund lifestyle inflation:** It can be tempting to use credit to live beyond your means, but this is a fast track to financial problems. Stick to your budget and avoid buying things you can't afford to pay off right away.



5. Create a Debt Management Strategy

If you're already carrying debt, don't panic. You can still use debt to your advantage by creating a clear strategy for paying it down. Here are two common methods:

Debt Snowball Method

Start by paying off your smallest debts first while making minimum payments on the larger ones. As you pay off each debt, move on to the next smallest. The sense of accomplishment from eliminating small balances can motivate you to stay on track.



6. The Power of Paying More Than the Minimum

Paying extra toward your balance each month can drastically reduce how long it takes to pay off your credit card and how much interest you pay. Here's how:

- **More goes toward the principal:** When you pay more than the minimum, a larger portion of your payment goes toward reducing your principal balance (the original amount you owe), rather than just paying off interest.
- **Faster payoff:** The more you pay each month, the quicker you'll eliminate your debt. Even small amounts over the minimum can make a big difference.

For example, if your minimum payment is \$100, but you pay \$150, that extra \$50 goes directly to reducing your balance, lowering the interest you'll owe next month. Over time, this can save you hundreds or even thousands of dollars.



7. Plan for Extra Payments

To accelerate debt repayment, try these strategies:

- **Budget for extra payments:** Set aside money in your budget specifically for paying more than the minimum.
- **Round up payments:** If your minimum payment is \$125, round it up to \$150 or \$200.
- **Use windfalls:** Use bonuses, tax refunds, or other unexpected income to make larger payments toward your balance.

The Proper Way to Make and Stick to a Budget

Creating and sticking to a budget is one of the most powerful ways to take control of your finances. A well-planned budget helps you manage your money, pay down debt, build savings, and achieve your financial goals. This guide will walk you through the proper steps to create a realistic budget and strategies to help you stick to it long-term.



1: Why You Need a Budget

A budget gives you a clear picture of where your money is going. Without one, it's easy to overspend, fall behind on bills, or lose track of financial goals. A budget empowers you to:

- Track your spending and see where your money is going each month.
- Prioritize essentials like bills, groceries, and savings.
- Plan for the future by setting financial goals, such as paying off debt or saving for a big purchase.
- Avoid financial stress by ensuring you're living within your means.

Sticking to Your Budget

Tip 1: Automate Your Savings and Bills Set up automatic transfers to your savings account and schedule automatic bill payments. This ensures that your savings goals and fixed expenses are covered first before you spend on anything else.

Tip 2: Track Your Spending Regularly Continue to monitor your spending even after creating your budget. Use budgeting apps or spreadsheets to check in weekly and ensure you're staying on track. By reviewing your budget regularly, you can catch any overspending before it becomes a problem.

Tip 3: Be Flexible, But Stay Disciplined Unexpected expenses can come up, or your income might fluctuate. If that happens, don't panic—adjust your budget accordingly. However, be careful not to let minor adjustments turn into bad habits. Stick to your spending limits as much as possible.

Tip 4: Set Realistic Expectations A budget won't work if it's too restrictive. Allow yourself small indulgences within reason, but set limits on how much you can spend on non-essentials.

Tip 5: Reward Yourself for Progress Budgeting isn't about deprivation. Set small rewards for yourself when you hit financial milestones, like paying off a credit card or saving a certain amount of money. These rewards will keep you motivated.

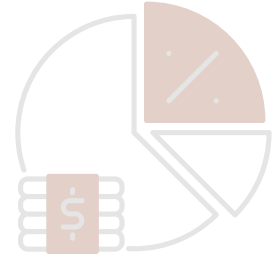


How to Create a Budget

Step 1: Track Your Current Spending

Before you create a budget, you need to know where your money is going. Start by tracking all your spending for at least one month. Use a budgeting app or our spreadsheets record every transaction, including:

- Fixed expenses (rent/mortgage, utilities, insurance)
- Variable expenses (groceries, gas, entertainment) Meal Plan to save more.
- Discretionary spending (eating out, shopping, subscriptions)



Step 2: Categorize Your Expenses

Once you've tracked your spending, group your expenses into categories:

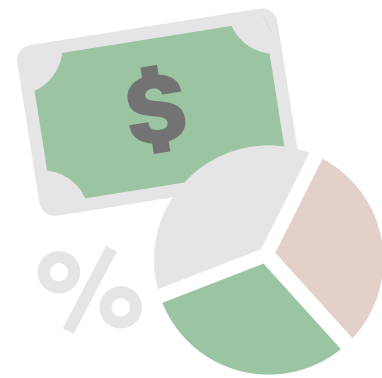
- Needs: Essential expenses like housing, groceries, transportation, insurance, and minimum debt payments.
- Wants: Non-essential expenses like dining out, entertainment, and shopping.
- Savings/Investments: Money set aside for an emergency fund, retirement, or future investments.

Step 3: Set Financial Goals

Identify your short-term and long-term financial goals, such as:

- Building an emergency fund
- Paying off debt
- Saving for a vacation, home, or car
- Investing for retirement

Prioritize these goals within your budget.



Step 4: Allocate Your Income

Use the 50/30/20 rule as a starting point:

- 50% for needs
- 30% for wants
- 20% for savings and debt repayment

TIP :HOUSING LESS THEN 30% YOUR INCOME

You can adjust these percentages based on your personal financial situation. For example, if you have significant debt, you may allocate all toward debt repayment and have zero spending on wants.

Step 5: Balance Your Budget

Ensure your total expenses don't exceed your income. If they do, you'll need to adjust by:

- Reducing discretionary spending (wants)
- Finding ways to cut down on variable expenses (groceries, entertainment)
- Increasing your income through side hustles or better-paying jobs

Strategies for Sticking to Your Budget Long-Term



1. Create a Purchasing Policy

Before making a purchase, ask yourself:

- Do I need this, or is it a want?
- Can I afford this within my budget?
- Is this purchase aligned with my financial goals?

This method of conscious spending will prevent impulse buys and help you stay on track.

2. Use Cash for Discretionary Spending

If you tend to overspend on non-essentials, try using cash for your discretionary spending categories. Once the cash runs out, you can't spend any more for the month. This physical limit can help you avoid overspending.

3. Review and Adjust Your Budget Monthly

Your budget isn't set in stone. As your financial situation changes (e.g., a raise, a new expense), review and adjust your budget accordingly. Regularly updating your budget keeps it relevant and helps you stay focused on your financial goals.

4. Build an Emergency Fund

Unexpected expenses like car repairs or medical bills can quickly derail your budget. Build an emergency fund to cover these surprises so they don't force you into debt or overspending.

Overcoming Common Budgeting Challenges

Challenge 1: Sticking to Your Plan

If you find it hard to stick to your budget, start by making small changes rather than overhauling your spending habits overnight. Cut out or reduce one unnecessary expense at a time to make it easier to adjust.

Challenge 2: Overspending on Non-Essentials

It's easy to overspend on things you want, like eating out or shopping. To combat this, set a specific amount each month for discretionary spending and stick to it.

Challenge 3: Unexpected Expenses

Even with the best planning, unexpected expenses will arise. Having an emergency fund of 3-6 months' worth of living expenses will help cover these without throwing your budget off course.

Stay committed, be patient, and watch your financial situation improve over time!

CLEANING *List*

Area	Daily Tasks	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Kitchen	Wipe down countertops and appliances							
	Wash dishes and load/unload the dishwasher							
	Sweep or vacuum the floor							
	Empty trash bin							
Area	Daily Tasks	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Bathroom	Wipe down bathroom surfaces (sink, countertop)							
	Wipe down toilet seat and handle							
	Empty and clean bathroom trash bin							
	Wipe down bathroom surfaces (sink, countertop)							
Area	Daily Tasks	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Living Room	Dust surfaces and electronic devices							
	Vacuum or sweep the floor							
Area	Daily Tasks	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Bedroom	Make the bed							
	Dust surfaces and electronics							
	Vacuum or sweep the floor							
	Make the bed							
Area	Daily Tasks	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Common Areas	Vacuum under furniture and in corners							
	Dust and wipe down light fixtures and ceiling fans							



CLEANING *List*

Area	Monthly Tasks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Kitchen	Clean the inside of the refrigerator												
	Clean the inside of the oven												
	Clean microwave interior												
	Wipe down kitchen cabinets												
Area	Monthly Tasks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Bathroom	Scrub the bathtub and shower												
	Clean bathroom tiles and grout												
	Clean bathroom exhaust fan												
Area	Monthly Tasks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Living Room	Vacuum upholstered furniture												
	Clean windows and window sills												
	Vacuum upholstered furniture												
Area	Monthly Tasks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Bedroom	Rotate and flip the mattress												
	Vacuum or clean under the bed												
	Rotate and flip the mattress												
Area	Monthly Tasks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Common Areas	Vacuum under furniture and in corners												
	Dust and wipe down light fixtures and ceiling fans												



Get Your Budget trackers, Payoffs, Saving Sheets Here **FREE**

Printable

Google Sheets

