

Student Worksheet – JA Personal Finance

Student Name: _____

Lesson 1: Setting Goals

My Savings Goal is:

Lesson 1: What's Your Spending Personality?

Big Spenders – Big spenders love nice cars, new gadgets and brand-name clothing. Big spenders aren't bargain shoppers; they are fashionable and they are looking to make a statement. This often means a desire to have the smallest cell phone, the biggest plasma TV and a beautiful home. They are comfortable spending money, don't fear debt and often take big risks when investing.

Savers – Savers are the exact opposite of big spenders. They turn off the lights when leaving the room, close the refrigerator door quickly to keep in the cold, shop only when necessary and rarely make purchases with credit cards. They generally have no debts and are often viewed as cheapskates. Savers are not concerned about following the latest trends, and they derive more satisfaction from reading the interest on a bank statement than from acquiring something new. Savers are conservative by nature and don't take big risks with their investments.

Shoppers – Shoppers derive great emotional satisfaction from spending money. They often can't resist spending, even if it's to buy items they don't need. They are usually aware of their addiction and are even concerned about the debt that it creates. They look for bargains and are happy when they find them. Shoppers are eclectic in terms of investing. Some invest regularly through RRSP plans and may invest a portion of new income, while others see investing as something they will get to eventually.

Debtors – Debtors aren't trying to make a statement with their expenditures, and they don't shop to entertain or cheer themselves up. They simply don't spend much time thinking about their money and therefore don't keep tabs on what they spend and where they spend it. Debtors generally spend more than they earn and are deeply in debt and they don't put much thought into investing. Similarly, they often fail to even take advantage of the company match in their RRSP plans.

Investors – Investors are consciously aware of money. They understand their financial situations and try to put their money to work. Regardless of their current financial standing, investors tend to seek a day when passive investments will provide sufficient income to cover all of their bills. Their actions are driven by careful decision-making, and their investments reflect the need to take a certain amount of risk in pursuit of their goals.

Spenders: Shop a Little Less, Save a Little More

If you love to spend, you are going to keep doing it, but you should seek long-term value, not just short-term satisfaction. Before you splurge on something expensive or trendy, ask yourself how much that purchase is going to mean to you in a year. If the answer is "not much," skip it. In this way, you can try to limit your spending to things you'll actually use. When you channel your energy into saving, you have another opportunity to think long term. Look for slow and steady gains as opposed to high-risk, quick-win scenarios. If you really want to challenge yourself, consider the merits of scaling back.

Savers: Use Moderation

Ben Franklin once recommended "moderation in all things." For a saver, this is particularly good advice. Don't let all of the fun parts of life pass you by just to save a few pennies. Tune up your savings efforts too. Pinching pennies is not enough. While minimizing risk is any investor's prime goal, minimizing risk while maximizing return is the key to investing success.

Shoppers: Don't Spend Money You Don't Have

A critical step for shoppers is to take control of their credit cards. Unchecked credit card interest can wreak havoc on your finances, so think before you spend – particularly if you need a credit card to make the purchase. Try to focus your efforts on saving your money. Learn the philosophy behind successful savings plans and try to incorporate some of those philosophies into your own. If spending is something you do to compensate for other areas of your life that you feel are lacking, think about what these might be and work on changing them.

Debtors: Start Investing

If you are a debtor, you need to get your finances in order and set up a plan to start investing. You may not be able to do it alone, so getting some help is probably a good idea. Deciding on who will guide your investments is an important choice, so choose any investment professional carefully.

Investors: Keep Up the Good Work

Congratulations! Financially speaking, you are doing great! Keep doing what you are doing, and continue to educate yourself.

The Bottom Line

While you may not be able to change your personality, you can acknowledge it and address the challenges that it presents. Managing your money involves self-awareness; knowing where you stand will allow you to modify your behavior to achieve your desired outcome.

Lesson 1: Evaluating your Spending

Review your savings goal you wrote down at the beginning of the lesson. Now use the chart below to write down how you can start saving for that goal.

Category	Behaviour Change	Monthly Savings (\$)
Food		
Transportation		
Cell phone/Data plan		
Media/Recreation		
Clothing		
Grooming/Cosmetics		
Other:		
Total Savings per Month		\$

Key Terms

TFSA – A Tax-Free Savings Account is an account that does not charge taxes on contributions, interest earned, dividends, or capital gains. You can also withdraw money without paying tax on the amount being withdrawn. A TFSA can be opened at age 18 or with parental support under the age of 18.

RRSP - A Registered Retirement Savings Plan is a way to save for retirement. Money that hasn't been taxed is placed into an RRSP and grows tax-free until it is withdrawn. When you decide to withdraw money from your RRSP it is taxed at that time.

Compound Interest - The interest a person earns on today's money that will compound (add) to the amount of money that will earn interest later. The compound interest earned on investments makes money grow quickly. A few dollars set aside when you are young is worth the same as hundreds of dollars set aside later in life.

Credit Score/Credit Rating - A credit score is a number that represents your overall credit health. It indicates how likely you are to make payments on time or default on a loan. Your score can range from 300 to 900, with 300 being the lowest possible score and 900 being the highest.

Credit Report – A snapshot of your financial history.

Lesson 3: Funding Post-Secondary Matching Activity

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program) | _____ |
| 2. Financial Aid from Schools | _____ |
| 3. Scholarships | _____ |
| 4. Bursaries | _____ |
| 5. Bank Loans | _____ |
| 6. Self-Funded | _____ |

- A. Non-competitive and automatic source of money, often based on financial need. These are sources of money you don't have to pay back.
- B. Money saved by you or your parents/relatives for education. This might include an RESP (Registered Education Savings Plan).
- C. Bursaries, scholarships, work-study programs, or summer employment opportunities offered by colleges or universities. These are all sources of money you don't have to pay back.
- D. Ontario's flagship student support program, offering a mix of grants and loans to thousands of students each year.
- E. Banks, trust companies and credit unions lend money or allow students to have lines of credit.
- F. Competitive sources of money that you usually, but not always, have to apply for them. These are all sources of money you don't have to pay back.

Lesson 3: Budgeting for Post-Secondary

Complete the budget below. To determine costs of items you can visit:

<https://proliteracy.ca/main/finance> If you don't see an item listed, you can research it!

Expenses	Estimated Monthly Budget (\$)
Education	
Tuition	
Fees (gym, lab, student unions, etc)	
Other course materials (ie. Books)	
Other	
Housing	
Rent	
Utilities not included in rent: electricity, heating, water use	
Contents Insurance	
Food	
Groceries	
Eating Out	
School Meal Plan	
Transportation	
Public Transit	
Taxi/Uber/Lyft	
Car Share Co-op expenses	
Vehicle: Gas, Registration, License, Insurance, Parking, Maintenance	
Technology	
Cell phone use	
Internet connection	
Hardware: computer and necessary hardware	
Other (please state):	
Personal care	
Hair/body products and cosmetics	
Clothing	
Haircuts & other aesthetic services	

Expenses	Estimated Monthly Budget (\$)
Entertainment & Recreation	
Cable T.V./Streaming Services	
Movies, concerts, nights out, sports events (incl. food & beverages!)	
Music & game purchases	
Participation in recreation (fees, equipment, lessons)	
Health Care	
Dental Insurance (if not included in tuition or parent/guardian's plan)	
Medical Insurance (if not included in tuition or parent/guardian's plan)	
Medications	
Vision care: annual check up, glasses, contacts	
Wellness services not covered by OHIP (ie. Physiotherapy, etc)	
Other	
Banking fees	
Newspapers/books/magazines (online or hard copy purchased)	
"Beyond Me": E.g. Religious, Charities, Treating/helping friends, etc.	
Pets: Food, registration, vet bills, etc.	
Total Expenses	
Income (Sources of Money)	
Scholarships, grants, bursaries	
Part-time work (estimate if applicable)	
Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP)	
Student Loans	
Family Contributions	
Other personal savings	
Gifts	
Other	
Total Income	
Difference (Income - Expenses)	