

My Money Plan: Before → Adult

Some Questions to Ask Yourself

Smart financial decisions begin with knowing what matters to you. Having a personal money plan will guide your choices and help you to get the most out of your money. When appropriate, compare your answers to those of your spouse. What are the similarities/differences?

HERE ARE A FEW QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU BEGIN:

For me, money is:

How do I feel about spending money... why?

The things that matter most to me in life are:

How do I feel about saving money... why?

How do I want to use my resources to improve the future for myself and my world?

How do I feel about sharing money... why?

What are my long-term financial goals?

In a sentence or two, my personal money plan is:

NOW EXAMINE YOUR MONEY PLAN:

- Does my money plan reflect MY values... not just those of my peers? (Your plan will work best for you if it fits your own situation.)
- Have I invested the time it takes to examine what matters to me and then determine ways to live in a manner that matches my values?
- Where can I turn for solid financial information and advice to help me make smart use of my money?
- How does my money plan balance sharing, saving and spending?

Premium Brands → Adult

Nowadays, everything from bubblegum to bottled water comes with a brand name. But what do the brand names cost you? Record your estimate—do some research if you need to—and see what the big brands are actually costing.

	Premium Brand item	Average Brand item	No-name Brand item	Used item
Business clothing—suit or equivalent, shoes	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Casual clothing—shirt, slacks, shoes	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Vehicle	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Cookware set	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
A piece of sports or hobby equipment (Specify: _____)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
An electronic item (Specify: _____)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Other item (Specify: _____)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Other item (Specify: _____)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

How often do I buy premium brands?



What benefit do I get from buying premium brands—as opposed to average or no-name brands?

If I chose to purchase less-costly alternatives, what could I do with the money I save?

Spending Log → Adult

To achieve financial sanity, it's important to know more about your spending. Track your weekly spending for 30 days in these categories.

	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	TOTAL
CLOTHING	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
GROCERIES	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
SPORTS/HOBBIES	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
EATING OUT	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
ENTERTAINMENT <small>(movies, CDs)</small>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
TRANSPORTATION <small>(bus, car, gas)</small>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
CONNECTIVITY <small>(cell phone, Internet)</small>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
TOILETRIES <small>(shampoo, cosmetics)</small>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
_____	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
_____	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
_____	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
_____	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
				GRAND TOTAL	<input type="text"/>

Did my spending reflect what is important to me?
 Two years from now, which of these purchases will still mean something to me?
 Would I be embarrassed if others (family, friends) saw my list?
 What percentage of my spending is for: needs _____ wants _____

Money In~Money Out → Adult Check in

Each month, I get money from the following:

JOB: \$ _____ GIFTS: \$ _____ OTHER: \$ _____
 SAVINGS: \$ _____ LOANS: \$ _____
 _____ TOTAL: \$ _____

Each month, I use my money for (insert totals from Session 1 Spending Log):

HOME MORTGAGE/RENT: \$ _____	CAR PAYMENT: \$ _____	CHARITABLE DONATIONS: \$ _____
HOME ELECTRICITY: \$ _____	CAR INSURANCE: \$ _____	
HOME HEAT AND/OR COOLING: \$ _____	CAR MAINTENANCE: \$ _____	SAVINGS ACCOUNT: \$ _____
HOME CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE: \$ _____	GAS: \$ _____	
HOME WATER AND/OR GARBAGE: \$ _____	SPORTS/HOBBIES: \$ _____	COLLEGE SAVINGS: \$ _____
CLOTHING: \$ _____	MISC.: \$ _____ (DRY CLEANING)	
GROCERIES: \$ _____	PERSONAL: \$ _____ (HAIRCUTS, SHAMPOO, COSMETICS)	INVESTMENT SAVINGS: \$ _____
ENTERTAINMENT: \$ _____	MEDIA: \$ _____ (MAGAZINES, BOOKS)	
EATING OUT: \$ _____	SCHOOL: \$ _____ (EVENTS, SUPPLIES, TUITION)	CREDIT CARD BALANCES: \$ _____
CONNECTIVITY: \$ _____ (CELL PHONE, HOME PHONE, INTERNET, CABLE)		

TOTAL IN: \$

TOTAL OUT: \$

DIFFERENCE +/-: