Hey! grow up
So what do you want to be when you grow up?

Built-in costs
The costs of TV, internet and utilities can add up very quickly.

MARCH 24, 2017
A young person's guide to money management

Deseret News
Discover the real cost of living

You can’t wait to be free and on your own, can you? Well, the words on your own and free don't really go together — not when you're the one paying the bills. As it says throughout this study guide, life is expensive!

Make no mistake: being an adult is cool, and you should dream about making it in the big world. Just think of this as a reality check.

To learn about life as an adult, let’s take a trip together to grown-up land, where you can watch movies all night long (if you can afford the movie channels), eat whatever you want (depending on how many mouths you’re feeding) and travel to strange lands (like your manager’s office, a mortgage company or the refrigerator repair shop).

As you work through this guide, imagine you're 28 years old. You'll be able to make some choices in life, but as in the real world, some things are out of your control. This is not a game to win or lose by making the most money. Those who learn from making realistic choices and playing by the rules will come out ahead.

Use the worksheet at the end of this guide, but make sure you write in pencil — things change in life, you know. Finally, in this exercise, you'll use the newspaper and internet as tools for information and saving money. It's a good habit to get into for real life.
Hey! Grow Up

So, what do you want to be when you grow up? It’s a common, but important, question. Your choice of careers — and how hard you work — can be the difference between earning $15,000 and $15,000,000 a year. Let’s take a look at what goes into choosing a career.

ABILITIES
Many people choose careers according to their abilities, whether they’re creative, persuasive or good with numbers. Most abilities don’t point to just one profession, but identifying your skills will allow you to rule out a lot of occupations. (Forget about being a brain surgeon, for example, if you’re all thumbs.)

List two abilities — things you’re good at — that might shape your career:

_________________________________________________________

WANTS
What job will make you want to get out of bed every morning and go to work? (“Nothing” is not a choice here.) You might be skilled at a job that pays a high salary, but if it doesn’t interest you, you’ll be unhappy. Find work that will keep you interested. Some people can cash in on a hobby (a rock collector who becomes a geologist, for example), but others can’t.

List two interests that could lead to a career:

_________________________________________________________

NEEDS
Another part of figuring out what you want to be is knowing what you want — and need. If making a lot of money is your top goal — whether you need lots of money to raise a large family or you simply want to be rich — you might consider becoming, say, a neurologist. If what you want most is to make a difference in people’s lives, you might consider teaching.

List some top priorities in your life:

_________________________________________________________

GRADES
For many careers, you need more than skill and desire; you need to be prepared. And most employers view education as proof that you’re prepared. You might want to heal animals, but you’ve got to go to college to be a veterinarian. And colleges can be picky about who they let in; they often look at grades to help decide if a student has the skill and determination to do college work.

So what kind of student are you?

☐ Excellent — I make top grades, and I know how to study.
☐ Good — I make good grades through hard work or by being smart, but not both.
☐ So-so — I’m passing, but I have to work hard at it — or — I’m not working hard enough.
☐ Poor — I’m not passing all of my classes — or — I probably will drop out of high school.

Sometimes wants, needs and abilities can come together and lead a person to a dream job. Let’s see — I love clothes, I have a knack for drawing and style and I make pretty good grades. I’m going to be a fashion designer! Other people have to make compromises. OK, I’m good at figuring out how things work and I’d like to be a mechanical engineer, but my grades aren’t good enough to get into college. I’ll be a mechanic instead!

TURN THE PAGE TO PICK A CAREER FOR LIFE ...
People have always asked you what you’re going to be when you grow up. And now you can tell them! These lists show dozens of career choices, grouped by the schooling required for each. While you might change jobs — and even careers — several times in real life, you need to stick with one career for this exercise.

Life is full of choices, but your career options depend on school performance. You’ve probably heard of high school dropouts who became rich and famous, but you’re not one of them — not in this life, anyway.

Check your response on page 3. If you said you’re an “excellent” student, you can choose from any job listed here. If you said “good,” you can pick from any job except for those in the #4 boxes. If you said “so-so,” you can pick from jobs in the #1 and #2 boxes only. If you said you’re a “poor” student, your choices are limited to jobs in the #1 box.

Warning: Your first instinct might be to choose a high-paying career just for the money — but wait. People who do that in real life often find themselves well paid but unsatisfied. Likewise, students who pick a high-paying job hoping to win this simulation might have full bank accounts, but they’ll come up empty on learning.

For the best learning experience, be honest with yourself. Pick a career that matches your abilities — one you think you’d really enjoy. Don’t select librarian if you’re not big on reading. And don’t be a dentist if you can’t stand working in, uh, moist places.

Another thing: The listed salaries are national averages of monthly earnings. You might know of people making more or less in these jobs, but we’re using average salaries. The same is true for education requirements. There are paralegals (listed here as a two-year college requirement) with bachelor’s degrees — and those with no degrees at all. The requirements below are guidelines; some are firm (doctors, for example), while others are more flexible.

### Activity

**Practice Interviews**

It’s important to think quickly and communicate clearly when interviewing for a job. To hone these skills, pair up with another student and conduct mock interviews.

**Here’s how it works:**

Start by selecting a job for which you are interested. Share the position with your partner. Then take a few minutes to come up with five to seven interview questions to ask each other relating to his/her chosen career.

Begin with general questions such as: “Tell me about yourself,” and “Why are you looking to leave your current job?” Then build up to more specific questions. For example, a teaching position may include the following: “What do you enjoy about working with children?” and “What is your educational philosophy?” It’s important to talk about your skills and interests with confidence.

By practicing your answers to these kinds of questions, you will be better prepared for a real interview.
### 2. High School Diploma

- Administrative assistant: $3,147
- Chef: $5,093
- Child care worker: $2,459
- Construction worker (general): $2,416
- Data entry keyer: $2,333
- EMT: $2,916
- Firefighter: $3,599
- Mail carrier: $5,083
- Military (noncommissioned officer): $3,750
- Model: $3,256
- Professional athlete: $3,583
- Singer: $3,583
- Travel agent: $2,946
- Veterinarian assistant: $2,235

### 3. Bachelor's degree

- Accountant: $5,238
- Architect: $5,929
- Computer engineer: $7,333
- Fine artist: $4,118
- Flight attendant: $5,635
- Graphic designer: $4,515
- Insurance agent: $4,200
- Landscape manager: $3,810
- Marketing manager: $7,634
- Meteorologist: $7,796
- News reporter: $4,005
- Occupational therapist: $6,708
- Park ranger: $5,260
- Physician assistant: $2,021
- Programmer: $6,462
- Public relations: $3,867
- Sales representative: $4,752
- Social worker: $5,229
- Writer: $5,083

### 4. Professional degree

- College professor: $4,500
- Dentist: $12,645
- Lawyer: $9,228
- Optometrist: $9,723
- Veterinarian: $8,285

### 2. Vocational Degree

- Auto mechanic: $2,986
- Cosmetologist: $3,020
- Electrician: $3,666
- Floral design: $3,927
- Hair stylist: $2,049
- Heavy truck driver: $3,281
- Machinist: $3,252
- Medical assistant: $2,727
- Plumber: $4,206
- Welder: $3,397

### 3. Master's degree

- Elementary teacher: $4,482
- Engineer (civil): $5,034
- Engineer (electrical): $5,360
- Guidance counselor: $4,479
- Librarian: $4,935
- Pharmacist: $10,183
- Physical therapist: $6,637
- Psychologist: $7,318
- Secondary teacher: $4,674
- Speech pathologist: $6,153

### 4. Medical degree

- General practitioner: $15,246
- Pediatrician: $14,500
- Psychiatrist: $16,920
- Specialist: $21,397
WILL YOU — GULP! — MARRY ME?
One of life’s big choices is whether to get married — and when. At 28, you’re past the age when half of the population has married (for the first time). It’s OK to wait, though. It’s up to you:

☐ Yes, I’m married
☐ I’m still single

SPouse’S INCOME
If you’re married, let’s find a job for your spouse. Actually, we’ll just find an income using a totally random formula. Use the following steps to determine your spouse’s salary; you’ll decide later whether he or she works — and gets paid.

1. Write your monthly salary (from pages 4 and 5) here:____________________

2. Multiply it by the number that matches the day of the week you were born, and write the result here:____________________

(If you don’t know the day of the week you were born, go to: mathsisfun.com/games/dayofweek.html)

Sunday ....................................................................................1.0
Monday .................................................................................. 0.8
Tuesday ................................................................................. 0.9
Wednesday ...........................................................................1.6
Thursday ............................................................................... 1.2
Friday ..................................................................................... 1.1
Saturday ................................................................................0.4

HERE, KIDDIE KIDDIE
Another big decision in life is whether to have children. A baby is a tiny addition with a huge impact. Kids can be very rewarding, but they cost time and money. Ready to have a family?

☐ Yes, I’m ready to be a parent.
☐ No, I’m not ready.

If you said yes, you’ll need to determine how many kids you have. Warning: Sometimes things go as planned, but only sometimes.

Write your first name:____________________

❖ If your first name has an odd number of letters, you have one child.
❖ If your first name has an even number of letters, you have two children.
❖ If your first name has three letters and begins with a vowel, you have three children.
❖ If your first name has ten or more letters, you have no children — even though you wanted to start a family. Life is unfair.

How many children do you have:________
STAY‐AT‐HOME MOM OR DAD

If you’re married with children, you’ll have to decide whether one of you will stay home with the kids or you’ll both work. Of course, another salary will help pay for things you need, but some couples decide to give up the second salary. So what’ll it be? Will your spouse stay at home with the kids? (Remember, you’re working either way.)

☐ My spouse will stay home.
☐ My spouse will work.

THE MONEY TREE

With a family, you face higher expenses. Costs vary from family to family, but in this life, you’ll use the following figures for one month:

Child care (only if your spouse works)
One child = $550
Two or three children = $775

Your child care cost per month:

Clothes
For careers in box #1 and #2: $55 per adult, $45 per child.
For careers in box #3 and #4: $165 per adult, $66 per child.

Your clothing cost per month: (adults + children)

Let’s go home
Married or single, parent or childless, you’ll need a place of your own as an adult. And once you know about your income and family size, you can make choices about what type of place to call home. Listed below are the costs of rent or a mortgage.

Note: You can get a place with more room than you need, say, a three‐bedroom house, even if you’re single. But if you’ve got one or two kids, you need at least two bedrooms.

Food
Single male = $229
Single female = $194
Couple = $466
Couple + one child = $557
Couple + two children = $676
Couple + 3 children = $766

Your food cost per month:

Rent
One‐bedroom apartment = $950
Two‐bedroom apartment = $1,200

Own
Two‐bedroom house = $1,200
Three‐bedroom house = $1,560
Four‐bedroom house = $1,930
Huge, deluxe house = $2,794

Your housing cost per month:

Activity

CALCULATE A MORTGAGE PAYMENT

Obtaining an affordable mortgage is essential. According to bankrate.com, experts recommend that your monthly payment not exceed 28% of your income before taxes. It’s important to also consider your income stability, savings account totals, maintenance costs and overall debt when deciding how much home you can afford.

Mountain America’s mortgage calculator can help you estimate monthly payments on different loan amounts, payment terms and interest rates. Go to: www.macu.com/financial-calculators/mortgage-calculator.

Compare the differences on the following loan options by calculating the monthly mortgage payment on a $275,000 home:

- 3% interest rate for 30 years vs. 20 years.
- 5% interest rate for 30 years vs. 20 years.
You’ve got a home. You’ve got a job. Now you’ve got to get from home to work and back again — every day. You also need transportation to everywhere else: grocery stores, mall, movies, parties — you get the idea.

You’ve got two choices: own your own vehicle or use public transportation (bus, subway, etc.) to get around. You can save a lot of money by taking the bus or train — but only if it’s a realistic choice for you.

☐ I’m buying some wheels.
☐ I’m using public transportation: $85

Let’s go cruising

Chances are, you’ll want wheels of your own. Many types of vehicles are available: cars, trucks, SUVs, minivans — new and used. Listed costs are monthly loan payments based on a five-year loan. Maybe in real life, you’ll pay cash or lease a vehicle, but not for this exercise.

New vehicles

Chevy Cruz $377
Dodge Ram truck $629
Ford F-150 truck $862
Ford Explorer $808
Ford Fusion $503
GMC Yukon $1,222
Honda Accord $494
Jeep Grand Cherokee $808
Lexus GS350 $1,042
Toyota Camry $395

Used vehicles

‘02 Chevy S-10 Truck $89
‘03 Mitsubishi Eclipse $66
‘04 Honda Accord $144
‘06 F-150 4x4 $221
‘08 Ford Explorer $221
‘09 Toyota 4Runner $288
‘09 Toyota Camry $155
‘10 Volkswagen Jetta $188
‘12 Chevy Corvette $885
‘15 Lexus ES300 $533

Your monthly car payment: ___________

Does your spouse need a car? If so, enter your second car’s monthly payment: _______

Don’t forget the fuel

Gas prices are another transportation expense. Prices change, and some people drive more than others. Let’s say you’ll spend $100 a month for gas. If your spouse has a car, you two will ride together some of the time, so budget $65 for the second vehicle.

Your monthly gas cost: ___________

Activity

Achieve your best rate

When you’re looking to buy a car, your credit score will influence the rate for which you qualify. Develop a strong credit score by committing to the following financial habits:

- Make loan payments on time.
- Don’t overextend your credit.
- Don’t open several new accounts in a short amount of time.
- Keep accounts in good standing open.
- Get the best deal for your financial situation by shopping around — especially on major purchases.

There are other factors that impact your total payment. Visit www.macu.com and check out the car loan calculator. See how down payments, taxes, fees and even the term can impact your total monthly down payment.
People buy insurance to protect themselves in case of an accident, theft or illness. Insurance doesn’t prevent these and other misfortunes from happening, but it does pay most of the cost when they do occur. For this protection, you pay the insurance company a set amount each month.

ACCIDENTS HAPPEN
If you have a wreck, auto insurance can cover the cost of fixing your car and the medical expenses of the passengers in your car — plus the other person’s car and passengers, which can total thousands of dollars.

The cost of insurance depends on how much the policy covers, the type of vehicle you drive and where you live. If you have a wreck or get a traffic ticket, your insurance rates usually go up. For this exercise, let’s go with the national coverage: $99. That’s $99 per month — per vehicle. If you don’t own a car, you don’t need this insurance. If your spouse owns a car, that’s another $99.

Your monthly auto insurance cost:

TO YOUR HEALTH
Staying healthy can be cheap: eat right, exercise and don’t smoke. But if you do get sick — or injured — health care can be very expensive. Health insurance can help even out those costs, and many employers pay for at least some of their employees’ insurance. Let’s say you have health insurance through work, and you pay for part of it along with other health expenses.

- Your monthly health insurance cost: $150
- Additional health-related expenses, monthly: $80
- Do you smoke? It’ll cost you: Add $200 per month.

Your monthly home insurance cost:

FIRE AND EARTHQUAKES AND THIEVES — OH MY!
You’ll need to insure your home and your stuff (if you buy a house) or just your stuff (if you rent) against damage or theft. Here’s how much you’ll spend each month for insurance:

- Own: $150
- Rent: $13

Your monthly home insurance cost:

Activity

AUTO INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS
Driving a car is a big responsibility. Stay safe in a vehicle by obeying the speed limit, following traffic laws and avoiding distractions. In the unfortunate event of a car accident, it’s important to carry good auto insurance.

While insurance requirements vary in each state, all drivers are required to carry minimum amounts of bodily injury or personal injury protection and property damage liability coverage for medical costs or property damage after a car accident. Maintain auto insurance to avoid the following penalties:

- Driver’s license suspension
- Vehicle registration suspension
- A no insurance violation traffic ticket could cost a minimum of $400.
- Subsequent offenses could cost a minimum of $1,000.

In addition to fines incurred from driving uninsured, you will also have to pay reinstatement fees for your suspended driver’s license and vehicle registration.
Built-in costs

HOOK UP FOR TV/INTERNET
Most American households have at least one television. How you get your TV programming depends on where you live and what you want. Your choices include: cable, a satellite dish and built-in internet. How many channels you choose is up to you.

- Very basic cable and internet (local channels only): $80/month
- Deluxe package (loads of pay channels, movies and Internet): $120/month
- Top-tier cable and high-speed internet: $180/month

Your monthly TV/internet cost: ____________

UTILITY COSTS: THEY’RE ELECTRIFYING!
All this time, you thought your parents were bugging you about saving energy and water because they’re picky. Hey, they’re just trying to save money! Now that you’re paying the electricity, gas and water bills, see why:

- One-bedroom apartment = $105
- Two-bedroom apartment = $126
- Two-bedroom house = $158
- Three-bedroom house = $190
- Four-bedroom house = $253
- Huge, deluxe house = $285

Your monthly utility cost: ____________

HANG UP!
Telephone expenses differ widely, depending on location and cellular plans. When figuring your costs, you might think you can save money by getting a cell phone for you but not your spouse. But since you'll want to stay in touch, if you get a cell, so does your spouse:

- Cell phone: $80
- Spouse’s cell phone: $40

Your monthly cell phone cost: ____________

TIME FOR TAXES
People hate to pay taxes, but taxes pay for roads, police and fire protection, and thousands of programs that benefit citizens. The following table is not the real tax table, and it ignores hundreds of details that add or subtract from a real-life tax bill. But it’ll give you a good idea of the bite that taxes take out of your monthly income.

1. Write your monthly income:

2. Multiply the first $800 by 0.10 (10%):

3. Multiply the amount over $800, up to $2,500 by 0.15 (15%):

4. Multiply the amount over $2,500 by 0.25 (25%):

Add the three tax amounts to get your monthly tax payment: ____________
WHERE'S THE LOVE?

When charities come knocking on your door (as well as call you on the phone or send you letters), how will you respond? Can you say no to the American Cancer Society, the YMCA, your college and the kid down the street? Most Americans donate to charities, and the annual amount varies from pocket change to $3.3 billion (from Microsoft CEO Bill Gates). The average family gives about three percent of its income to charities. Calculate three percent of your monthly earnings:

\[
\text{Your income} + \text{spouse's income} = \text{total} \times 0.03 = \\
\]

Your monthly contribution to charities:

SEE THE WORLD

You deserve a vacation this year — if you can afford it. Choose from one of the following vacation packages and then set aside money each month to pay for it. The prices include travel and food:

- One week at your in-laws' house ................................................................. $60
- One week camping (driving) ................................................................. $240
- One week at a state park (driving) ................................................................. $720
- One week at the beach (driving) ................................................................. $960
- One week in San Francisco (or another far away city) ................................................................. $1,320
- Four-day Caribbean cruise ................................................................. $1,620
- One week at Disney World ................................................................. $1,980
- One week in Hawaii ................................................................. $2,880
- One week in Europe ................................................................. $3,480
- Two-week Mediterranean cruise ................................................................. $9,000

Your monthly set-aside for vacation (divide above amount by 12):

OUT TO LUNCH

If you want to eat out — and who doesn't — it'll cost you. Use this chart to determine your family's cost of eating out, then decide how many times you'll eat out each month.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visit Type</th>
<th>Fast Food</th>
<th>Nicer Restaurant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>$7</td>
<td>$18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You and spouse (or date)</td>
<td>$14</td>
<td>$36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married + one child</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married + two children</td>
<td>$22</td>
<td>$55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[
\text{Number of visits per month to fast food restaurant} \times \text{cost} = \\
\text{Number of visits per month to nicer restaurant} \times \text{cost} = \\
\]

Total dining-out cost for the month:

Activity

THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE

Adulthood comes with many benefits, including the opportunity to use your money as a positive force in the world. But how do you decide where to give your money? And, how do you know that the donation will be used in the way it is intended? Make an informed decision with online tools. Start by choosing an organization whose values and mission support your own. Learn more by visiting the organization's website—read through the company's mission statement and find out how the organization uses its funds.

Once you have visited the organization's website, you can visit charity search engines to find more in-depth information:

- www.Guidestar.com
- www.Give.org
- www.CharityNavigator.org

Discover new charities with your friends and talk about what information is most important to consider when making a donation.
No matter what you earn, you can take steps toward financial security by creating and sticking to a budget and savings plan. Budgeting is making choices that match your spending goals with your income. In real life, your first step to making a budget will be to track all of your expenses. When you keep a record of your spending, you might be shocked to find out how much you spend on things such as movies and cheese puffs.

Saving is holding on to some of your money so you can use it in the future. Many people set aside money in an account that grows tax-free until it’s withdrawn years later. Company-sponsored plans are called 401(k) plans. You can also start an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) on your own. The more you set aside — and the sooner you start doing it — the more you’ll have to enjoy when you retire.

Let’s start small, let’s save $25 per month.

**ONE MORE THING TO BUDGET**

College was great, wasn’t it? Well, you’re still paying for it. Not everyone borrows money to pay for higher education, but let’s say you did. Check on pages 4 and 5 to remind yourself how much schooling you need for your career. The table below shows typical monthly payments for student loans:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Monthly Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vocational school</td>
<td>$54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate degree</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>$184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s degree</td>
<td>$220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College professor</td>
<td>$280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional degree</td>
<td>$530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician</td>
<td>$840</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your monthly student loan payment:

---

**Activity**

**WANTS VS. NEEDS**

One of the first steps in putting together your budget is to determine your wants versus your needs or, put another way, essential versus nonessential spending. Since wants can easily disguise themselves as needs, start by answering these questions when making a purchase:

- Do I really need it or would I like to have it?
- Could I save money by waiting for a good sale?
- Could I borrow it (equipment from a friend or store, books or DVDs from the library, etc.)?
- If I do need it, what is my budget for the item?

Test this out before your next run to your favorite retail store. Create a shopping list with prices for each item and total the list. Now, cross off any items that you can live without or that you can wait to purchase on sale. Total the list again and notice the difference in your totals. This is the amount you can save if you stick with true needs.
Wildcards

ow that you’ve established your monthly income and expenses, see what can happen when unexpected expenses (or income) come your way — life’s wildcards. Several possible events are numbered and listed below, and three will happen to you. Hey, that’s life. You’ll need two dice for this part. Let the number you roll with the first die be the first digit; the second roll yields your second digit. Using dice, the lowest possible number is 11, and the highest is 66. Write the monetary results of your three wildcard rolls in the blanks below.

11. [5 4]: Teenagers break out your windshield (only if you have a car; roll again if you use public transportation). You pay $250 to replace it.
12. [6 3]: The toilet won’t flush. You pay $82 for a plumber. If you pay rent, pay nothing.
13. [2 5]: Find a lost dog and collect the reward. You get $20.
14. [4 7]: You’ve got a cold. Insurance covers most of your visit to the doctor’s office. You pay $15.
15. [5 2]: If you have kids, one has a broken arm. Even with insurance, medical care and time off work add up. You pay $75. No kids, pay zero.
16. [3 1]: You can’t wait to see the new blockbuster movie. For two tickets and popcorn, you pay $21.
17. [1 6]: You over paid last year’s taxes. Who knew? You get $112 for an income tax refund.
18. [2 2]: Happy birthday to your nephew. For a present, you pay $20.
19. [4 3]: Not the TV! You need a new one and can make monthly payments. You pay $51.
21. [1 2]: You have a yard sale. You get $178.
22. [4 6]: You were caught speeding on the highway. You pay $82.
23. [6 4]: You need new shoes to be in a wedding. You pay $65.
24. [5 3]: Your kid needs money for a field trip. You pay $4. No kids, pay zero.
25. [1 5]: It’s your ten-year class reunion. You pay $50.
26. [2 1]: It’s your lucky day! Someone lost a five-dollar bill, and you found it. You get $5.
27. [3 6]: Who can say no to Girl Scout cookies? Not you! You pay $9.
28. [5 2]: It’s a home run — through your window. You pay $35, but only if you own a home.
29. [2 4]: Pitch in for your boss’s day gift. You pay $5.
30. [4 1]: Time for an oil change. You pay $34 if you drive. Double if your spouse has a car.
31. [5 6]: Your friends won’t let you miss a concert. You pay $45.
32. [1 4]: A cousin dies and you’re in her will. You get $200 a month from a trust fund.
33. [4 5]: You run over a neighbor’s newly planted tree. You pay $85 to replace it.
34. [6 1]: You need new shoes to be in a wedding. You pay $65.
35. [5 1]: Your kid needs money for a field trip. You pay $4. No kids, pay zero.
36. [1 6]: It’s your lucky day! Someone lost a five-dollar bill, and you found it. You get $5.
37. [2 4]: It’s a home run — through your window. You pay $35, but only if you own a home.
38. [4 1]: A storm brings a tree limb crashing into your gutter. You pay $110 if you own your home.
40. [1 6]: You get a puppy from the pound. You pay $80 for shots and a license.
41. [2 3]: Your photo wins a contest in a magazine. You get $50.
42. [6 5]: Your child stars in a local TV commercial. You get $100. No kids, no money.
43. [5 4]: You win a karaoke contest at the fair. You get $25.
44. [1 3]: You spilled your drink all over your laptop. You pay $40 a month for three years for a new one.
45. [2 5]: You broke off a doorknob at home. You pay $5.
46. [3 6]: The power company overcharged its customers. You get $6 as a rebate.
47. [5 1]: You over paid last year’s taxes. Who knew? You get $112 for an income tax refund.
48. [1 6]: You get a puppy from the pound. You pay $80 for shots and a license.
49. [2 3]: Your photo wins a contest in a magazine. You get $50.
50. [3 6]: Your child stars in a local TV commercial. You get $100. No kids, no money.
51. [6 5]: You win a karaoke contest at the fair. You get $25.
52. [1 3]: You spilled your drink all over your laptop. You pay $40 a month for three years for a new one.
53. [2 5]: You broke off a doorknob at home. You pay $5.
54. [3 6]: The power company overcharged its customers. You get $6 as a rebate.
55. [6 5]: You win a karaoke contest at the fair. You get $25.
56. [1 3]: You spilled your drink all over your laptop. You pay $40 a month for three years for a new one.
How does your life add up?

Expenses
Child care cost (page 7):
Food cost (page 7):
Clothing cost (page 7):
Housing cost (page 7):
Public transportation or car payment (page 8):
Spouse’s car payment (page 8):
Monthly gas cost (page 8):
Auto insurance cost (page 9):
Health insurance cost (page 9):
Home insurance cost (page 9):
TV/internet cost (page 10):
Utilities cost (page 10):
Cell phone cost (page 10):
Tax payments (page 10):
Contribution to charities (page 11):
Set-aside for vacation (page 11):
Dining out cost (page 11):
Savings (page 12):
Student loan payment (page 12):
Wildcard total (page 13) (include + or -):

TOTAL EXPENSES: __________

Income
List your monthly salary (from pages 4 and 5)*: ______
Write spouse’s salary here, if he/she works (page 6): ______
TOTAL INCOME: ______________

*If you selected a career requiring a medical degree, there’s something you need to know: at 28, you’re not finished with your education — you’re still an intern. Use $1,825 as your monthly salary. Also, go back to page 6 and recalculate your spouse’s salary. Don’t worry though, you’ll be earning the big bucks in a couple of years.

Don’t panic, doctor. If you chose a career requiring a medical degree, you’re still getting your education and do not have to pay back student loans — yet!
Answer these questions for yourself, then discuss them with schoolmates, friends or family members:

1. So how are you doing, moneywise? Are you in the black (with a positive number)? Or in the red (with a negative number)?

2. Are you pleased with your financial situation as a 28-year-old?

3. Are your finances, as listed here, the result of chance or choices?

4. How much did your grades affect the outcome? How much will grades and education affect your real-life outcome?

5. What can you do in real life to avoid the financial problems encountered in this exercise?

**SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Earning good grades now can really pay off in the future. One of the best ways is by helping you to qualify for scholarships. Visit the U.S. Government website at www.studentaid.ed.gov for information on grants, scholarships and student loans.

Mountain America offers student loans for those who may not qualify for federal aid or for those who plan to attend a trade/specialty school or complete certification courses. Visit www.macu.com/student-loans for more information.

In addition, Mountain America awards several scholarships to credit union members and their families. The scholarships are awarded based on academic performance, community volunteer service and a written essay about educational and career aspirations.

**Mountain America Scholarship**

One $2,000 scholarship is awarded in the following three categories: Community Service and Social Service, General and Other Academic Majors, and Business and Communication Majors. The application deadline is April 21, 2017.

**Utah Public Employees' Association (UPEA) Scholarship (already awarded for 2017)**

Three $1,000 scholarships are awarded to Mountain America and UPEA members or their dependents who live in Utah. UPEA begins accepting applications in February each year. Watch for details on next year's award or visit www.upea.net for more information.

**Larry H. Miller Megaplex Scholarship**

Nine $500 scholarships will be awarded to students who are Megaplex Theatre employees and Mountain America members. Applications are due to Kathy Farrow at Megaplex Theatres by June 1, 2017. Contact Sales Administrator Amanda Mitchell at ammitchell@macu.com with questions.

For additional information, visit www.macu.com/scholarships.
Mountain America has continually been a champion of Newspapers in Education and demonstrated an unwavering commitment to teaching Utah's youth the importance of Financial Literacy. Each year Mountain America reaches thousands of students, helping them learn the basics of budgeting, saving, spending, wise use of credit and protecting their identity. This financial education is aimed at helping them get on track financially, become motivated to take action and live a balanced life.

Mountain America Credit Union has 87 branches in five states and offers a variety of financial products and services for consumers and businesses. With roots dating back to the 1930s, Mountain America Credit Union is a tradition for many members. Today, the credit union serves more than 630,000 members, wherever they are, through online and mobile banking, branch locations and more than 50,000 ATMs nationwide. Throughout its history, the credit union has committed to grow and now has $6.1 billion in assets. Mountain America has been honored six times as one of “Utah’s Best Companies to Work For” by Utah Business magazine.