

The Math of Money: Worksheets

One worksheet for each chapter. Fill in your own numbers, or use the free calculators at mathofmoney.mzbacademy.com/toolkit.

Chapter 1: Is a \$60,000 Salary Really \$60,000?

Your turn: My Real Take-Home Pay

1. Annual salary: \$_____

2. Pre-tax deductions (retirement, health, other): \$_____

3. Take-home pay from your pay stub $\times$ number of paychecks per year: \$_____

4. Take-home $\div$ salary = _____%

5. Monthly take-home (line 3 $\div$ 12): \$_____ $\leftarrow$ Use this number in every budget in this book.

Chapter 2: Which Job Offer Actually Pays More?

Your turn: Job Offer Comparison

	Offer 1	Offer 2
Salary		
+ Retirement match		
+ Guaranteed bonus		
– Your health premiums		
– Expected deductible costs		
– Commuting costs		
= Real value		
Extra commuting hours per year		

Chapter 3: Should You Take the Raise or the Remote Job?

Your turn: What My Time Is Worth

1. Salary: \$_____

2. Yearly job-related costs (commute, parking, clothing, meals): \$_____

3. Line 1 – line 2: \$_____

4. Work hours per year: _____

5. Commute minutes per day $\times$ working days $\div$ 60: _____ hours

6. Real hourly rate = line 3 $\div$ (line 4 + line 5): \$_____

Chapter 4: How Big Should Your Emergency Fund Be?

Your turn: Emergency Fund Target

1. My essential monthly expenses: \$_____
2. Target months (3 if stable, 6 if not): _____
3. Target fund = line 1 $\times$ line 2: \$_____
4. Current savings: \$_____
5. Gap = line 3 - line 4: \$_____
6. Monthly amount I can save: \$_____
7. Months to reach target = line 5 $\div$ line 6: _____

Chapter 5: What Does a Credit Card Balance Really Cost?

Your turn: Credit Card Payoff Plan

1. Balance: \$_____ APR: _____%
2. Monthly rate ($\text{APR} \div 12$): _____%
3. This month's interest ($\text{balance} \times \text{line 2}$): \$_____
4. Target payoff (months): _____
5. Rough monthly payment = $\text{balance} \div \text{line 4} + \text{line 3}$: \$_____ (*the calculator gives the exact figure*)
6. I will set up an automatic payment of \$_____ on day _____ of each month.

Chapter 6: Avalanche or Snowball?

Your turn: Debt Payoff Order

Debt	Balance	APR	Minimum	Avalanche order	Snowball order

Total I can pay each month: \$_____ – total minimums \$_____ = extra \$_____

I choose: ☐ Avalanche ☐ Snowball. First target: _____

Chapter 7: Should You Pay Off Student Loans Early or Invest?

Your turn: Pay Down or Invest?

1. Loan balance: \$_____ Rate: _____% Remaining months: _____

2. Extra I can put in each month: \$_____

3. Have I captured my full 401(k) match? ☐ Yes ☐ No (do this first)

4. Do I have at least 3 months of emergency savings? ☐ Yes ☐ No

5. My rate is: ☐ above 7% ☐ 4–7% ☐ below 4%

6. My choice: ☐ Pay down ☐ Invest ☐ Split _____ / _____

Chapter 8: Is “Buy Now, Pay Later” Really Free?

Your turn: BNPL Check

Plan	Payment	Frequency	Monthly equivalent	Payments left

Total monthly pay-later commitments: \$_____ ÷ monthly take-home \$_____ = _____%

Before my next plan: Would I buy this with cash today? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Chapter 9: How Much Does a Bad Credit Score Cost You?

Your turn: Credit Score Cost

1. Total card balances: \$_____ ÷ total limits: \$_____ = utilization _____%
2. All accounts on automatic minimum payment? [] Yes [] Not yet
3. Last time I checked my credit reports: _____
4. Next big loan I expect (car, apartment, mortgage): _____ Amount: \$_____
5. Use the calculator to compare that loan at a good rate vs. a rate 2 points higher. Difference: \$_____

Chapter 10: Why a \$30,000 Car Can Cost \$45,000

Your turn: True Cost of a Car

1. Price: \$_____

2. Taxes and fees: \$_____

3. Down payment: \$_____ Amount borrowed (1 + 2 - 3): \$_____

4. Rate: *****% Months: _____ Monthly payment (calculator): \$*****

5. Total interest (payment $\times$ months - amount borrowed): \$_____

6. Estimated maintenance over the years I'll keep it: \$_____

7. Estimated value when I sell it: \$_____

8. **True cost** = 1 + 2 + 5 + 6 - 7: \$_____ $\div$ months owned = \$_____ per month

Chapter 11: Is 0% Financing Really Cheaper?

Your turn: Financing vs. Rebate

1. Negotiated price: \$_____
2. Option A — promotional rate *****% for _____ months. Total paid: \$*****
3. Option B — rebate \$*****. Amount financed: \$***** at my rate *****% for _____ months.
Payment: \$***** Total paid: \$_____
4. Lower total: [] A [] B. Difference: \$_____

Chapter 12: Lease or Buy?

Your turn: Lease vs. Buy

	Lease	Buy
Due at signing / down payment		
Monthly payment $\times$ months		
Expected mileage charges		
Total paid		
Value of car I own at end – loan balance	\$0	
Net cost		
Net cost $\div$ months		

Chapter 13: 48, 60 or 72 Months?

Your turn: Loan Term Picker

Term	Payment	Total interest	Fits my budget?
36			
48			
60			
72			

Shortest term that fits my budget: _____ months. Interest saved vs. 72 months: \$_____

Chapter 14: How Much Rent Can You Actually Afford?

Your turn: Rent Budget

1. Monthly take-home pay (Chapter 1): \$_____
2. Target housing cost (line 1 $\times$ 0.33): \$_____
3. Expected utilities + internet + insurance + parking: \$_____
4. Maximum rent = line 2 – line 3: \$_____
5. Cash needed to move in: \$_____ Cash I have: \$_____

Chapter 15: Rent or Buy?

Your turn: Rent vs. Buy

1. Home price: \$_____ Yearly rent for a similar home: \$_____
2. Price-to-rent ratio (line 1 price $\div$ yearly rent): _____
3. Owner's monthly cost (mortgage + tax + insurance + maintenance + HOA): \$_____
4. Renter's monthly cost (rent + renter's insurance): \$_____
5. How many years will I likely stay? _____
6. Use the calculator for the break-even year: _____

Chapter 16: How Much House Can You Afford?

Your turn: Home Affordability

1. Gross monthly income: \$_____ $\times 0.28$ = housing budget \$_____

2. Estimated property tax + insurance + HOA per month: \$_____

3. Available for principal and interest (1 - 2): \$_____

4. Loan this supports at *****% (calculator): \$*****

5. Down payment: \$_____ Comfortable price (4 + 5): \$_____

6. Other monthly debt payments: \$_____. Is (housing + other debts) $\div$ gross income $\leq 36\%$? [] Yes [] No

7. Cash left after down payment and closing costs: \$_____ (should cover 3–6 months of expenses)

Chapter 17: 15-Year or 30-Year Mortgage?

Your turn: Mortgage Term Compare

	30-year	15-year
Rate		
Monthly payment		
Total interest		
Payment as % of gross income		
Fits budget with savings goals?		

Chapter 18: What Does \$100 a Month Become?

Your turn: My \$100 Plan

1. Amount I can invest each month: \$_____
2. Account I'll use: ☐ 401(k) ☐ IRA ☐ Other: _____
3. Automatic transfer date: _____
4. Value in 30 years at 7% (calculator): \$_____
5. I'll increase my contribution by \$_____ every _____ (raise / birthday / new year).

Chapter 19: Why Starting at 22 Beats Starting at 32

Your turn: Cost of Waiting

1. My age: _____ Monthly amount I could invest: \$_____

2. Value at 65 if I start now (calculator, 7%): \$_____

3. Value at 65 if I start in 5 years: \$_____

4. Cost of waiting 5 years (line 2 – line 3): \$_____

5. My start date: _____

Chapter 20: Is the 401(k) Match Really Free Money?

Your turn: Capture the Match

1. My salary: \$_____
2. Match formula: _____% of my contributions, up to _____% of salary
3. Contribution needed for the full match: *****% = \$***** a year
4. Full match value: \$_____ a year
5. My current contribution: *****%. Match I'm missing: \$***** a year
6. Vesting schedule: _____
7. Today I'll change my contribution to _____. [] Done

Chapter 21: What Does a 1% Fee Cost Over 30 Years?

Your turn: Fee Calculator

Account	Balance	Fund expense ratio	Advisory/other fees	Total yearly fee %	Yearly fee \$

Cost of my fees over 30 years (calculator): \$_____

Chapter 22: Roth or Traditional?

Your turn: Roth vs. Traditional

1. My federal bracket now: _____%
2. My expected bracket in retirement: ☐ higher ☐ about the same ☐ lower
3. Does my employer offer a Roth 401(k)? ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. My choice this year: ☐ Roth ☐ Traditional ☐ Split _____ / _____
5. Year I'll revisit this decision: _____

Chapter 23: Is the Extended Warranty Worth It?

Your turn: Warranty Check

1. Item: _____ Price: \$_____ Warranty price: \$_____
2. Already covered by manufacturer or credit card? ☐ Yes, for _____ ☐ No
3. Chance of repair (honest estimate): *****% $\times$ likely cost \$***** = \$_____
4. Chance of replacement: *****% $\times$ cost \$***** = \$_____
5. Expected cost (3 + 4): \$_____ vs. warranty price \$_____
6. Could I cover the worst case from savings? ☐ Yes (skip it) ☐ No

Chapter 24: Subscriptions, Coffee and the “Latte Factor”

Your turn: Subscription Audit

Go through your last two bank and card statements and list every recurring charge.

Charge	Monthly cost	Used last month?	Value to me (1–5)	Keep / cancel

Monthly savings from cancellations: \$_____ Where I’ll redirect it: _____

Chapter 25: How to Build a Budget You'll Actually Keep

Your turn: My One-Page Budget

Monthly take-home pay: \$_____

Bucket	Items	Monthly	% of take-home
Needs			
Savings and debt			
Planned irregular costs			
Wants			
Total (must equal take-home)			100%

Automatic transfers set up on day ____: ☐ Savings ☐ Retirement ☐ Debt