

Budget Busters: Answer “yes” or “no” to each question. NAME _____

1. I have written down my financial goals.
2. I have a plan for reaching my goals.
3. I have a spending plan for my allowance and any earnings from working for others or for myself.
4. Before spending my paycheck, I review my goals and pay myself first.
5. I plan how I will use the rest of my paycheck before I say yes to any impulse spending.
6. I have a wardrobe plan based on a basic color, styles best suited to my body type, and lifestyle needs.
7. I know how much I can spend on clothing each month/year.
8. I have a budget for snacks and meals eaten away from home.
9. I know how much I can spend each day/week for snacks.
10. I pack a lunch from home to save money and achieve better nutrition.
11. I plan ahead for times of big expenses, such as graduation, yearbooks, proms, and school and community activities so that I’ll have the money I need to attend/participate.
12. I take care of my teeth by brushing regularly, getting regular checkups, and cutting out sodas and other sugar-laden products.
13. If I want to make a major purchase (\$100 or more), I do comparison shopping to get the best buy for my money.
14. All of my purchases are part of my plan for reaching my goals.
15. I plan some money for spending as I please, but only after paying myself first.
16. I choose snacks from the pyramid that contribute to good health.
17. I don’t spend my hard-earned cash on junk food.
18. I limit junk food to an occasional treat rather than as an everyday habit.
19. I have an emergency fund set aside equal to at least two months of living expenses.
20. I pay of the entire balance due on my credit cards each month to avoid interest charges.
21. I understand the returned merchandise policy of a store before buying. Merchants are not required to allow returns.
22. I consider the cost of owning and caring for goods before purchase, such as the cost to clean leather and suede, or space to store an item.
23. I know the difference between wants and needs.
24. I know the rate of interest I am receiving on my bank or credit union savings account.
25. I belong to a credit union to reduce transaction costs.
26. I know the blue book values of any used car I might consider before agreeing on a purchase price.
27. I determine the amount I have to spend on a car and secure financing for that amount before selecting a car.
28. I have a wardrobe plan so that I know what I need to add to maximize the clothing already owned.
29. I have a plan for after graduation that includes additional training so that I can get and keep a living wage job.
30. I have determined several goals for my future.
31. I take care with my personal appearance including bathing daily, wearing clean and neat clothes, and keeping clean hands and nails (What does this “cost” you in a lifetime if you don’t do it?)
32. I can provide one good example of a spending mistake I made that helped me learn an important lesson in money management.
33. I am aware of three or more of my personal strengths.