

Chapter 16: Personal Finance

Internet Activity

Spending, Saving, and Budgets, Oh My! In this lesson, you will learn about spending and saving decisions and what it means to stick to a budget. You will learn using videos, websites, and online games, and demonstrate your knowledge by answering questions and creating an online budget.



Part 1: Learn

Directions: Watch the video “How to Set a Budget and Stick to It” from Better Money Habits at <http://bit.ly/budgetvid1> and answer the questions below.

- 1) According to the video, what three things does it take to stick to a budget?

- 2) What are fixed expenses? Give at least two examples of fixed expenses.

- 3) What are two ways that people could save money by spending less?

- 4) Why do you think that making a budget and sticking to it are difficult for many people?

Part 2: Practice

Directions: Play the game “Bank or Bust” at <http://bit.ly/bankorbust>. A couple of things to remember while playing the game:

- Read each screen carefully.
- After you make your choices to save money, check your plan to make sure you are saving at least \$50 per week. If not, try again!
- Remember to save money whenever you can – your future car and house will depend on it!

Model of car: _____ Amount of \$ saved per week: _____

In 20 years, amount of \$ saved: _____ Type of house: _____

Don't like your results? Play again and see if you can save \$150 per week!

Chapter 16: Personal Finance

Internet Activity

Part 3: Show What You Know

Directions: It's time to showcase your skills by making a budget of your very own! Go to The Mint's Building Your Budget website (<http://bit.ly/mybudget5>) to get started.

- 1) For your starting salary, type in \$50,000.
- 2) For Amount to Save, type in \$200 or more per month.
- 3) Go through the screens and make your choices for fixed and variable spending categories.
- 4) Be sure to choose a comfortable house, car, automobile insurance, and any other items you want.
- 5) When you get to the final screen ("The Result"), see how much you have left. If you are in the negative, try the activity again.
- 6) Write down your numbers below.

Total Monthly Income	\$ _____
Fixed Expenses	\$ _____
Variable Expenses	\$ _____
Total Monthly Expenses	\$ _____
<i>What's Left</i>	\$ _____

Finished Early? Check out these great games to learn more about personal finance!

- Hit the Road - <http://bit.ly/hittheroad1>
- Check It Out! - <http://bit.ly/checkout9>
- Countdown to Retirement - <http://bit.ly/countdown99>