

Check It Out (Key)

Scenario: You have recently been married. You and your partner have decided to set up a household budget. You will practice setting up a household budget by playing the “Check It Out” game at:

Sense and Dollars

Spending Money- Budget Basics

<http://senseanddollars.thinkport.org/games/checkitout/home.html>

You will understand the responsibility of having a full-time job and managing a household budget. You will begin by each having one month’s worth of income and one month’s worth of bills. You are in charge – you will decide which bills to pay and when to pay them. The main goal is to meet monthly financial obligations on time, without spending more than you have. You will have several bills that you must pay. They are:

| High school graduate | College graduate |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| \$425 for rent | \$425 for rent |
| \$190 in groceries during the month | \$190 in groceries during the month |
| \$15 per week in gas for your car | \$15 per week in gas for your car |
| \$60 for your phone bill | \$60 for your phone bill |
| \$70 for your electricity | \$70 for your electricity |
| \$70 for car insurance | \$70 for car insurance |
| | \$150 for your student loan |
| \$250 car payment | \$250 car payment |

The rest of your money is yours to spend as you wish. If you budget your money, you should have enough to win the game. Spend wisely!

Complete the handout as you play the game.

1. Choose the level of education you plan to complete. Circle your choice.
 - a. High school graduate
 - b. College graduate

2. How much does the average high school graduate/college graduate make a year?

\$23,000.00 a year—high school graduate

\$30,000.00 a year —college graduate

3. What is the gross monthly income? What’s this?

Gross monthly income for a high school graduate: \$1,916.66

Gross monthly income for a college graduate: \$2,500.00

Gross income is the amount of money you make each month, before you pay your taxes and bills.

4. What is the after-tax income? What are taxes?

After-tax income for a high school graduate: \$1,284.16

After-tax income for a college school graduate: \$1,675.00

There are a number of taxes that working adults may pay. Here are a few:

Income tax is a percent of the money you earn that goes to the federal, state, and local government. These taxes help pay for schools, roads and highways, police and fire departments, and other public services.

Social security tax is a percentage of the money that you earn that goes toward your retirement income and benefits, disability income, and other payments.

Personal property tax is what some local governments' charge each year on property that is owned, such as houses and automobiles. The amount of the tax is determined by the value of the item.

5. If you get paid twice a month, how much will you get in each pay check?

\$642.08 for a high school graduate

\$837.50 for a college graduate

(Teacher note: Entries and amounts will vary depending on each student)

| Date | Action | Amount +/- \$ |
|------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1/1 | Initial Deposit | |
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