

OVERVIEW

Once you've developed your plan, you're ready to put it into practice. No one else can do that for you. Of course, knowing what you should do doesn't mean that actually doing it will be easy. The good news: We have tips and strategies to help you get rolling.

The basics of maximizing your money comes down to cash flow—the money flowing into your pockets as income and flowing out as expenses and debt. It doesn't matter who you are or how much money you have, maintaining a balanced cash flow is crucial.

This lesson will help you set up strategies to maintain a positive cash flow.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

In this lesson you will set up strategies to maintain a positive cash flow. Along the way you will:

- Identify how to plug spending leaks.
- List strategies to stick to a spending plan.
- Discuss ways to be prepared for unexpected money events.

Use what you learn to develop strategies to control your spending.

LEARNING TASKS

These tasks match pages 31-40 in Student Guide 1.

__ 1.	Complete Activity 1.9: My Income Options to brainstorm ways to increase your cash flow.
__ 2.	Michael has a spending leak—he gets a parking ticket at school at least once a month. What are your spending leaks?
__ 3.	Complete Activity 1.10: My Spending Leaks to consider how you can change your habits.
__ 4.	The older you get, the more you become financially responsible for life's little surprises. Create "Green Reaper" playing cards—cards that identify accidents and costs.
__ 5.	Recommend ways for Michael to adjust his spending plan when his income increases.
__ 6.	Take the Money Management Self-Assessment . Be honest—this is for you. How did you do? Use your results and what you learned in class to complete Challenge 1-D: My Action Plan .



REFLECTION

How do you spend your money? Using your spending log from Lesson 1-1 (Further Study), create categories of expenses, and calculate the percent you spend on each category. How well do your current spending habits represent your financial goals?

Use this information to create a pie chart that represents how you spend your money. Answer the following questions: What do you think will happen to your pie chart in ten years if you don't create a spending plan? What do you think will happen if you DO create a plan?



FURTHER STUDY

Determine what you believe to be the biggest issue that keeps students from being financially responsible. Then, create a campaign to teach your fellow students ways they can better manage their money.



TAKING IT HOME

Showcase the Spendster website to your family (www.spendster.org), and then choose one of the following options:

- Show them the videos of Spendster confessions. Explain to family members what *you* would talk about if you were making a video for Spendster.
- Read the most recent posts under the "More Stuff" tab. Vote on the one your family finds most useful.
- Participate in the most recent poll under the "Your Stuff" tab by voting as a family. Then check out one of the documents at the bottom of the page.
- Join the conversation by adding a video, calculating the cost of wasted spending, uploading a picture, or leaving a comment—all of these options are possible on the site home page.