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Personal Finance and Money Savings Tips for Brits!



Are you battling to manage Your Personal Finances?

It seems like every week you go shopping the food prices are up. When they increase the petrol price everything goes up and they blame it on transport costs. Everyone must be asking why these prices do not come down then when they lower the petrol prices again. It is no wonder there are so many people that are struggling to make ends meet every month and more and more consumers end up in financial trouble even those that budget so carefully.

No matter how much or how little money you have, start taking responsibility for what happens to it by drawing up a budget and taking control of your expenses and income. Then you can start planning for other things in your life such as your education, your family, your home, your car, your holidays, and your retirement and so on.

There is no excuse for delegating this responsibility or for allowing your money management to end up making your life miserable and always living from month end to month end.

Follow these simple straightforward savings ideas below!

1. Saving 10 cents or more by comparing prices when you go shopping always makes good CENTS. This does not always mean a compromise in quality of what you are buying. When shopping at some of the larger supermarket chains where there are Their home brands products, most of these branded goods are the same quality as the brightly packaged ones. Packaging costs money and you are paying for something that will end up in the bin.

2. Put 10 percent of every pay increase you get towards savings, particularly long-term savings such as a retirement plan. If you are employed and belong to a retirement fund, your contributions will increase automatically in proportion to your pay rises. This will help ensure that you stay well ahead of inflation.

Consider that you were used to living on the current budget you already had. If it suits you put this increase portion away for something you want to buy for yourself later. Having a financial backstop also helps when unforeseen expenses happen.

3. Use the "Can I sleep?" judgment when buying a big price item. Do you really need that right now? Is it worth getting later or is it going to be a useful everyday item. A large purchase like that is not worth it if you are going to lie awake at night feeling guilty about it. THINK

before you buy.

4. Take out a solid savings fund, which you cannot access without going through rigmarole to get the money like a fixed deposit plan for an example. This will make you think twice before trying to access the funds. It will definitely be a godsend later when there is an unforeseen crisis.

5. You should be extremely cautious of any deal or item that sounds too good to be true. They normally are, and there is always some catch. Do your homework before buying any item too cheap or investing in a deal with a return too good to be true.

6. When borrowing money from banks if you really need do, like anything, shop around. More likely if you are going to get approved by one bank you will be approved by another. Check which institutions give the best interest rates and terms when taking out that loan or credit card.

7. Use the same tip as above when taking out a home loan. There are better institutions these days with better rates, and shorter repayment terms. This will ensure that you are not still paying off a bond when you are 90 years old.

8. If you have spare cash coming in which you want to put in a lower risk investment for later years, rather invest in unit trust funds and/or life assurance endowment policies that have shares as their underlying investments. These are safer bets than the stock exchange, especially if you do not know how the stock exchanges work.

9. If you are investing money in a product you do not understand rather avoid it and take something else. Be cautious of advice given by uniformed advisors.

10. Do not be pushed to invest money in Schemes, which look unlikely and may be illegal pyramid schemes masked by attractive returns. Sometimes these may be recommended by well meaning friends. Always research these opportunities properly

Tips For saving Money Around the home...

11. Make a list of your current accounts, phone bill, cell phones, water, gas electricity and check charges over the last three months. Make a

conscious note to see where you are wasting money and an effort to cut whatever costs you can.

12. Always switch off unnecessary electrical appliances and lights. Switch off the T.V instead of leaving it on standby the whole time. You will be amazed at the difference for just this little bit of effort if you watch your bill carefully.

13. Use gas heaters instead of electric ones during winter. The initial investment of buying one may be high but in the long run you will save thousands on your electric bill.

14. Check your home for dripping taps. They are a waste of water. You have heard this before but have you ever really done it. Dripping taps everywhere can cost you thousands per year if you had it up. Be conscious of the water you use for flushing the toilet, bathing, and when you are brushing your teeth.

15. Save more on electricity by switching off your geyser or water heaters when going out for weekends or extended trips. Get into the roof and throw a blanket over the geyser or insulate it with something. You will be surprised at how much this helps your geyser stay warm for longer.

16. Do you know that your fridge has to work harder if it is clogged with ice in the deep freeze or freezer section? Defrost your fridge regularly as this will save the fridge motor and your electricity bill. I am sure you have also heard people say do NOT put hot food in the fridge. Let it reach room temperature first.

17. It is time you started investing in these new long life fluorescent light bulbs. They are a little more pricey than normal globes but that extra price you pay will save you hundreds in electricity because they are far cheaper to run than the normal globe. When your lights fuse, make an effort to start replacing the globes with these new ones. The output wattages are the same plus they last ten times longer too. There are even new LED light globes now available that provide even more savings but they are a little pricey!

18. When cooking try and use pots the same size as the cooking plate to conserve energy. When the food is just about cooked then it is a good idea to turn off the plate or gas. You will see that the food will carry on cooking on these solid plates, or with thick based pots long afterwards, and you can even burn it if you are not careful. The stove

is a money guzzler whether gas or electric, so use it wisely.

19. Every night most average people buy milk and fresh bread I am sure. Unless you get yours delivered, save trips by buying milk and freezing it. You will really not notice the difference. Take a liter or two out the night before and it will be naturally defrosted by morning. Don't waste by buying more than you need and this goes for bread as well. Work out your household consumption and save trips to the shop by buying for two days or more at a time. The new sliced bread stays fresh 2 or 3 days and more if you refrigerate it.

20. Don't waste money by cooking what you are not going to eat. If you are cooking for 4 people cook for 4 people, and not 6. Everyone wastes food by overdoing too much. Most of it ends up in your dogs belly or the dustbin. Refrigerate what you can and eat it within a few days.

Traveling and work.

21. If you go to work everyday with your car and know the traffic patterns. Leave earlier to avoid heavy traffic, which uses up petrol. If possible take a different less traffic route. Although it may be a little longer you will still save petrol by not stopping and starting every few meters as in heavy traffic. Buses and trains are so much cheaper than your own car and in the UK we have one of the best public transport systems in the world so use them and save money on petrol.

22. If you do use your car, it goes without saying that one needs keep their car well maintained including tire pressures and oils, water and other fluid. Keep your car in tiptop condition and you will use less petrol. Drive smoothly and responsibly.

23. If you really work close to someone that is in the same building or area it is worth sharing traveling expenses. Be clear about the rules though to avoid souring the friendship.

24. When you go shopping plan in advance where you are going to shop. Don't drive around and around looking for parking on top of the door. Save that bit of petrol, by walking and parking first time in a spot a little further away. Use the internet to get deliveries, because this makes for smart savings.

25. Do a thorough check once a week of you car and look for wear and tear on fan belts and other moving parts. Replace what looks worn

rather than fork out for expensive engine repairs later.

26. Take a packed lunch of sandwiches to work everyday or a fruit rather than buying expensive pies or chips. Pack lunches the night before and refrigerate it.

27. Working too much overtime in a month can end up costing you more than you gain because your taxes will take most of it anyway. Try and plan your working hours to avoid this trap.

28. Ask your boss if you can work Flexi-time, IE: start work earlier and leave earlier to avoid traffic congestion on the roads. Brits with our daylight savings time have no problem with changing work hours as long as the work gets done on time.

29. When you are advised to invest in something, always do a bit of research of your own. Get a second opinion and use the Internet. Ask permission to use the works internet in your free time. Most bosses will allow this if your work is timeous and up to date. That way you do not have to do it deviously and feel guilty if you are not really allowed to.

30. Check with your personnel manager whether you are getting the best out of your pension or provident fund and medical aid insurance. There may be better alternative options than what you have. Otherwise you may be paying for something you do not need.

Banking Savings

31. Always try and draw money from your own banks ATM as using others will cost you almost double in fees each time.

32. Try not drawing too many balance statements at ATMs because the banks also charge you for this. Plan your transactions in advance.

33. Work out the amount of money you need and draw it out in one go rather than a lot of smaller transactions, as these will all cost you money.

34. Draw a statement each month from your bank and check all the charges there are. Query what you are not sure of and also check where you are wasting money. Bank charges are expensive.

35. Always pay the full amount owing on your credit card. If you do not, you will be charged a punishing rate of interest from the date of purchase. The so-called budget account on your credit card is a misnomer, as you pay a high rate of interest.

36. Use a credit card to get 55 days' interest-free credit by buying at the start of the buy-and-pay cycle and repaying the debt in full by the due date. This option does not apply to cash withdrawals and petrol purchases, on which you pay high interest rates from the date of the transaction.

37. Don't leave large amounts of money sitting in a low-interest bank savings or current account. Rather put the money into a money market account or into your house bond. If you really get into a fix you can always access the money later.

38. Never use debts on which you have to pay interest to buy products you consume. You are in effect making the items far more expensive, and will be able to save less and buy less in the long term. So never use your credit card to purchase groceries.

39. Keep a good credit record. It could save you thousands of pounds, particularly when you want to borrow money for big-ticket items such as a home or a vehicle, because the better your credit record, the lower the interest rate you can expect to pay. You then have good negotiating power. Better still stay out of the lending trap otherwise you will start living beyond your means.

40. Pay off debt, pay off debt, pay off debt. Start with the smallest debts and work your way up.

41. Borrow wisely. Expensive debt is a quick way to lose money. For example, borrowing against a credit card is far more expensive than borrowing against a home loan. The difference can be more than 10 percent interest.

42. If you have a problem meeting your debts, don't try to hide away. Go and speak to your creditors, particularly your bank, to find a way out of your problem. Don't use debt consolidators/administrators. They will charge you far more interest and make your problem worse.

43. Beware of plastic. Store cards and credit cards may be convenient, but they are also an easy way of running up debt. Try keeping a single

clothing account, not three different store accounts because you will end up paying three times the interest.

44. Buy your home to give yourself and your family security. Then pay off your bond as soon as possible to save yourself interest payments.”

45. Get a pre-approval agreement on a bond before you start looking for a home. This will give you the advantage of being able to shop around for the best rate while you’re not under pressure and the buyer will be more willing to sell to you knowing that the money is available.

LIFE TIPS.

There are many commonsense ways of saving money and all it needs is some thought. No one needs live a miserable bitter miserly life. On the contrary.

Working properly with what you earn can actually make your life so much better after all. We waste far too much of what comes in too easily, food, resources and simple wasteful living. The possibilities of saving are endless, be it recycling, buying in bulk or sharing with family.

What it takes to work, is habit forming ways of living, and always being conscious that the money you earn is hard earned. Life is of course short and what you are selling to the company you work at is of course your skills and time spent at work.

Your money is hard earned and using it sensibly can be rewarding and allow you to leave a comfortable stress free life.

In today’s fast paced world the biggest factor ruining most peoples health is of course lack of money.....

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We always welcome feedback from members and maintain a mailing list of 4000 members which we receive feedback from and pass on this to help others get ahead.

Richard Corona

Regards the Eezywealth Team

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