

ADULTING 101: 25 MONEY MOVES TO MASTER BY AGE 25

Feeling overwhelmed by money matters?
Don't worry, we've got you covered.

Entering adulthood is an exhilarating time, brimming with unlimited possibilities and ever-increasing independence.

Yet, the world of personal finance can feel like a complex maze, leaving you unsure where to begin.

This checklist can serve as your compass, guiding you as a young adult on a journey of financial literacy.

By exploring these key areas, you'll gain the knowledge and tools to confidently navigate your financial future, whether your goal is to continue on in your family's legacy or forge your own path to financial freedom.

Remember: Financial literacy is a lifelong journey. But this checklist can provide a springboard to launch your financial education. As you gain knowledge and experience, you can adapt your strategies and refine your financial goals.

By strategically taking control of your finances today, you're investing in a more secure and prosperous future.

Your Financial Foundation

Our checklist begins with four things we consider to be essentials to successful personal finance for everyone:



Aim To Live Debt-Free

Ensure your credit cards are paid off in full every month. Don't sign up for unnecessary credit cards.



Establish An Emergency Fund

Build yourself a safety net by intentionally setting aside an emergency fund that could cover 3-6 months of your living expenses.



Plan For Retirement Today

Start a retirement account as early as possible and contribute regularly, even if they are small contributions. Over time, you will benefit from compound interest.



Work With A Team Of Professionals

Seek guidance from financial and tax professionals to help you develop a personalized financial plan.



Financial Awareness & Planning

Understand Your Income + Spending Habits

Gaining control of your finances starts by tracking your income and expenses to see where your money goes.

Create A Budget

By knowing how to create a budget, you can understand where your money goes, make informed decisions about your spending habits and more strategically allocate funds towards your needs, wants and future aspirations.

Manage Your Debt

Develop a plan to eliminate existing debt and avoid future dependence on high-interest loans.

Know Your Credit Score

Your Credit Score is like your financial report card - a good one unlocks better loan rates and provides more opportunity.

Stay On Top Of Your Taxes

Keep track of your receipts and understand how taxes can have an impact on your financial decisions.

Smart Spending & Investing

Learn About Investing

Take the time to learn the basics of portfolio diversification and rebalancing to manage risk and optimize growth.

Invest Wisely

Don't invest until you have a fully funded emergency savings and no high-interest debt.

Leverage Compensation Packages

When considering a job offer, look beyond the base salary and consider benefits like health insurance and retirement plan contributions.

Be Mindful Of Your Spending

Be aware of small, everyday expenses or shopping habits - like your daily Starbucks splurge - can add up over time. Prioritize needs over wants as much as possible.

Live Within Your Means

Avoid living paycheck to paycheck. If you can't afford something right now, then you probably shouldn't buy it.

Keep Your Sights Set On The Future

Set Financial Goals

It's okay to have multiple financial goals, but prioritize them and be realistic about achieving them all simultaneously.

Build Your Credit

Establish good credit early by using a secured credit card responsibly. Your credit score impacts loan interest rates and future financial opportunities.

Be Aware Of "Good" + "Bad" Debt

Educate yourself on the difference between simple and compound interest to make informed borrowing decisions.

Plan For Your Ideal Retirement

Estimate retirement costs and create a savings plan to ensure financial security in your golden years.

Know Your Retirement Savings Options

Explore different retirement savings vehicles, like IRAs and 401(k)s, and understand their tax implications.

Embrace The Power Of Compound Interest

Start saving early to leverage the power of compound interest for exponential growth.

Remember: Comparison Is The Thief Of Joy

Focus on your own financial journey and avoid comparing yourself to others. Financial situations are unique.

Habits For Long-Term Success

Organize Your Financial Life

Make an effort to keep essential documents organized and secure, including birth certificates, social security cards, and financial statements.

Don't Rely On Parents For Financial Support

You can't rely on others to take care of your finances forever. The sooner you are able to provide fully for your own life and become self-reliant, the better you will be in the long-run.

Be Intentional About Homeownership

Don't rush into buying a house. Ensure you are financially stable before taking on a mortgage.