

**CPA**

CHARTERED  
PROFESSIONAL  
ACCOUNTANTS  
ONTARIO

# Your Money Your Life

STUDENT WORKBOOK

JR. ECONOMIC CLUB  
OF CANADA

CPA Classroom Activity

# Welcome to Your Future

Five years after high school, what will you be doing? Will you be okay for money? Will you be happy?

Prepare for your future.  
Play *Your Money Your Life*.

## Step 1: Who Are You?

Read the profile you chose or that was selected for you.

## Step 2: How Much Do You Earn?

Calculate your take-home pay. Note the debt for which you have to budget in Step 3.

## Step 3: Budget Your Monthly Expenses

Budget the best way to use your monthly take-home pay. Use the life decisions page to choose how you want to live. Make sure that you save for a rainy day. Balance dollars and cents with happiness points.

## Step 4: Stuff Happens

Live your life for four months. Roll the dice twice each month to find out what unexpectedly happens. Read and record the effect of the unexpected on your monthly finances and happiness. Then average these effects to help you adjust your monthly budget.

## Step 5: Improve Your Lifestyle

Improve your monthly budget to provide more savings and happiness. Account for the average monthly effect of unexpected events.

## Step 6: How Are You Doing So Far?

Share your results with your group. Share the results of your profile with other profiles in the class. Analyze the differences and similarities. What did you learn from improving your budget and coping with the unexpected?

## Step 1: Who Are You?

Choose one of these profiles or have one selected for you.

After high school:

1

You attended community college to pursue a degree in Professional Golf Management. You are now a certified Golf Pro and teach lessons at a beautiful golf club just north of the city. To get you through the winter, you are now taking courses to become a financial planner.

2

You decided to get a job in construction, starting as a labourer and working for a bunch of different crews. Wanting to move-up, you attended a community college to get your in-class courses. Now you are enrolled in an electrician's apprenticeship program.

3

You entered business school at university. Over the course of your four-year degree you interned at a major accounting firm. You took a gap year to travel through Europe, and now you are back working with the same firm, which will provide support while you study for your Chartered Professional Accountant designation.

4

You followed your dream to become a rapper and worked part-time in a pizza shop. You were good, got a recording contract and did a few videos. You didn't earn much even though you played a lot of gigs, but after a few years, your record company moved on. Now you are the manager of the pizza store.

5

You completed a liberal arts degree in university and then completed a Bachelor of Education. Now you are substitute teaching, looking for a full-time position, and running your own web marketing business to supplement your income.

6

You started your own landscaping business with your buddy Phil. After slogging it out for a few years, you went to community college part-time to earn a marketing degree. Now, bitten by the education bug, you are taking horticultural courses, and paying for them yourself as you continue to grow your garden business with Phil.

## Step 2: How Much Do You Earn?

Calculate your take-home pay.

Scenarios 1, 3 and 5		Scenarios 2, 4 and 6	
Student loan debt after 5 years:	(\$50,000)	Personal debt after 5 years:	(\$5,000)
Starting annual salary:	\$60,000	Starting annual salary:	\$30,000
Deduct CPP:	(\$2,163)	Deduct CPP:	(\$1,485)
Deduct EI:	(\$747)	Deduct EI:	(\$519)
Deduct Tax:	(\$12,735)	Deduct Tax:	(\$4,148)
NET annual salary:	\$44,355	NET annual salary:	\$23,848
Monthly pay minus deductions:		Monthly pay minus deductions:	
For game estimate income:		For game estimate income:	

Complete the table.

Calculate your monthly take-home pay.

- Estimate this amount for the game. Round up to the nearest hundreds or thousands.

Note the difference in debt for the scenarios. You will have to budget to pay for your debt each month in Step 3.

### Step 3: Budget Your Monthly Expenses

INCOME
 COST

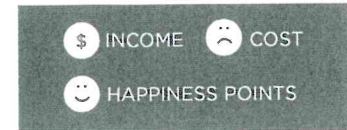
HAPPINESS POINTS

Decide how you want to live.

Complete the budget table with your decisions. Make sure that you save for a rainy day and make payments on your debt. Balance dollars and cents with happiness points. Use all of your take-home pay.

Monthly Expenses	Living Decisions (write in your choice)		
Debt payment			
Living arrangements			
Groceries			
Transportation			
Phone			
Internet			
Cable			
Exercise			
Shopping			
Entertainment and social			
Tenants' insurance			
Health insurance			
Vacation savings			
<b>Sub-Total Expenses + Happiness Points</b>			
Savings			
<b>Total Expenses, Savings + Happiness Points</b>			

- **Debt payment:** Scenarios 1, 3, and 5 – monthly mandatory payment -\$500 and -10 happiness points  
Scenarios 2, 4, and 6 – monthly minimum payment -\$100 and -5 happiness points
- **Savings:** save a minimum of \$50/month for your emergency fund; add 5 happiness points for every \$50 saved.



Make one life decision for each category. Use these decisions to fill in your budget sheet every month.

Living Arrangements			Exercise		
At home	\$200	5	No exercise	\$0	0
Rent with a friend	\$800	10	Gym membership	\$80	10
Rent on your own	\$1,500	10	Gym + house sports	\$200	20
Groceries			Shopping		
Salads, burgers + pasta	\$200	5	A few sale items	\$100	5
More fresh veggies + fish	\$300	10	Sale + one outfit	\$250	10
Organic veggies, chicken + meats	\$400	15	Sale, an outfit + one good basic item	\$400	15
Transportation			Entertainment + Social		
Cycle/walk/taxis	\$100	10	A few lunches and the odd movie	\$100	5
Metro Pass/taxis	\$200	10	Lunches and a few dinners + movies	\$250	10
Car/gas/insurance	\$600	15	3 lunches + 2 dinners/week + movies/concerts	\$600	20
Phone			Tenants' Insurance		
Basic cell package	\$25	5	No insurance	\$0	0
Smartphone	\$40	10	Basic recovery for fire and theft	\$25	5
Smartphone + tablet	\$65	15	Basic recovery + total replacement for electronics	\$40	10
Internet			Health Insurance		
No internet	\$0	0	No additional health	\$0	0
Basic package	\$15	5	Additional coverage for extra costs	\$25	5
Deluxe package	\$40	10	Total cost coverage for disability	\$100	10
Cable			Vacation Savings		
Basic	\$30	5	No savings	\$0	0
Specialty channels	\$40	10	For one all-inclusive one week trip a year	\$100	5
Sports and movies bundle	\$65	15	For two 2-week trips a year	\$300	15

## Step 4: Stuff Happens

Unexpected things happen when you live your life. Roll the dice twice a month for four months. Circle the results of each roll and record the effects of unexpected.

INCOME COST  
 HAPPINESS POINTS

### September - Roll 1

\$500 -10 \$250 -10	You have to take a weekend course to maintain your position at work. <b>1</b>	\$600 -20 \$200 10	Your grandfather becomes ill and you have to travel to see him. <b>2</b>	\$50 5 \$100 10	You must attend a work event and make a contribution to charity. <b>3</b>	\$100 20 \$500 5	A family member gives you a gift. <b>6</b>
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### September - Roll 2

\$500 -15 \$200 5	You fall ill and lose a week of work. <b>1</b>	\$200 10 \$500 -15	You get an unexpected tax rebate. <b>2</b>	\$100 -10 \$500 20	Your computer needs repair. <b>3</b>	\$100 -15 \$500 5	Your work is rewarded with a bonus. <b>6</b>
	You get carried away on a phone call to a close friend in Hong Kong. <b>4</b>		You have to move. <b>5</b>				

### October - Roll 1

\$500 -15 \$200 10	You have to move. <b>1</b>	\$100 10 \$500 20	A family member gives you a gift. <b>2</b>	\$500 -15 \$200 5	You fall ill and lose a week of work. <b>3</b>	\$500 -15 \$200 5	You get carried away on a phone call to a close friend in Hong Kong. <b>6</b>
	You get an unexpected tax rebate. <b>4</b>		Your work is rewarded with a bonus. <b>5</b>				

### October - Roll 2

\$250 -10 \$100 -10	You work extra hard at work and get overtime pay. <b>1</b>	\$50 5 \$500 -10	You must attend a work event and make a contribution to a charity. <b>2</b>	\$200 10 \$600 -20	You have a long weekend off from work and visit a friend's cottage/chalet. <b>3</b>	\$100 -10 \$500 -10	Your computer needs repair. <b>4</b>	\$500 -10 \$600 -20	You have to take a weekend course to maintain your position at work. <b>5</b>	Your grandfather becomes ill and you have to travel to see him. <b>6</b>
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INCOME    COST  
 HAPPINESS POINTS

November - Roll 1

<p> \$200</p> <p> 10</p>	You have a long weekend off from work and visit a friend's cottage/chalet. <b>1</b>	<p> \$100</p> <p> -10</p>	Your computer needs repair. <b>2</b>	<p> \$250</p> <p> -10</p>	You work extra hard at work and get overtime pay. <b>3</b>
<p> \$600</p> <p> -20</p>	Your grandfather becomes ill and you have to travel to see him. <b>4</b>	<p> \$50</p> <p> 5</p>	You must attend a work event and make a contribution to a charity. <b>5</b>	<p> \$500</p> <p> -10</p>	You have to take a weekend course to maintain your position at work. <b>6</b>

November - Roll 2

<p> \$200</p> <p> 5</p>	You get carried away on a phone call to a close friend in Hong Kong. <b>1</b>	<p> \$500</p> <p> -15</p>	You fall ill and lose a week of work. <b>2</b>	<p> \$500</p> <p> 20</p>	Your work is rewarded with a bonus. <b>3</b>
<p> \$500</p> <p> -15</p>	You have to move. <b>4</b>	<p> \$100</p> <p> 10</p>	A family member gives you a gift. <b>5</b>	<p> \$200</p> <p> 10</p>	You get an unexpected tax rebate. <b>6</b>

December - Roll 1

<p> \$200</p> <p> 10</p>	You get an unexpected tax rebate. <b>1</b>	<p> \$250</p> <p> -10</p>	You work extra hard at work and get overtime pay. <b>2</b>	<p> \$200</p> <p> 5</p>	You get carried away on a phone call to a close friend in Hong Kong. <b>3</b>
<p> \$100</p> <p> 10</p>	A family member gives you a gift. <b>4</b>	<p> \$300</p> <p> -15</p>	You have to move. <b>5</b>	<p> \$500</p> <p> 10</p>	Your work is rewarded with a bonus. <b>6</b>

December - Roll 2

<p> \$200</p> <p> 10</p>	You have a long weekend off from work and visit a friend's cottage/chalet. <b>1</b>	<p> \$50</p> <p> 5</p>	You must attend a work event and make a contribution to a charity. <b>2</b>	<p> \$500</p> <p> -15</p>	You fall ill and lose a week of work. <b>3</b>
<p> \$50</p> <p> -10</p>	You have to take a weekend course to maintain your position at work. <b>4</b>	<p> \$600</p> <p> -20</p>	Your grandfather becomes ill and you have to travel to see him. <b>5</b>	<p> \$100</p> <p> -10</p>	Your computer needs repair. <b>6</b>



Record the costs of the unexpected events. Divide by four (months) to arrive at a monthly average.

		Costs/Income (+/-)	Happiness Points (+/-)
September	Roll 1		
	Roll 2		
October	Roll 1		
	Roll 2		
November	Roll 1		
	Roll 2		
December	Roll 1		
	Roll 2		
<b>Total</b>			
<b>Monthly Average</b>			

Answer the following:

- By how much will you have to compensate in your budget due to unexpected events?
- By how much will unexpected events affect your happiness points?

## Step 5: Improve Your Lifestyle

Now that you know how unexpected events affect monthly income/costs, the challenge is to improve your monthly savings and happiness points. You must change your life decisions from Step 3 to improve your original budget and maximize your savings and happiness.

\$ INCOME
 ☹ COST
   
☺ HAPPINESS POINTS

### Monthly Income Adjusted for Increased Costs or Increased Income

Original estimated income adjusted (+/-) by monthly average unexpected costs/income:

Average happiness points (+/-) carried forward from unexpected events:

Monthly Fixed Expenses	Living Decisions Adjusted for Unexpected	☹	☺
Debts			
Living Arrangements			
Transportation			
Groceries			
Phone			
Internet			
Cable			
Exercise			
Shopping			
Entertainment and social			
Tenants' insurance			
Health insurance			
Vacation Savings			
Sub-Total: Improved Expenses and Happiness Points Adjusted for the Unexpected			
Savings			
Total: Improved and Adjusted Expenses + Happiness Points			

- Ensure your total costs are equal to your adjusted monthly average income.
- Ensure you have adjusted your estimated income to take into account the unexpected.
- Add the unexpected happiness points to arrive at the total.

## Step 6: How Are You Doing So Far?

The pair of students with the most savings and the greatest number of happiness points in their improved budget wins the game.

1. List the different decisions you had to make to account for unexpected events and to improve your budget.
2. Share your results with others who have the same profile. What were the similarities and differences? How does the profile affect your decisions?
3. Share the results of your profile with different profiles in the class. Analyze the differences and similarities. Do certain profiles seem to give an advantage? Why or why not?

After completing the game, discuss with your class.

1. What will you remember as result of playing *Your Money Your Life*?
2. What were the most difficult decisions to make? Give an example of a difficult trade-off between financial constraints and the need to be happy.
3. What role does savings play in your ability to cope with unexpected events? How did unexpected events affect your ability to save?
4. How did education affect the earning power of the profiles? How could the people profiled improve their income earning potential?

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**Who are CPAs?**

Chartered Professional Accountants (CPAs) are Canada's trusted business leaders. They are highly valued for their financial expertise, strategic thinking, business insight, management skills and leadership.

**A Professional Designation?**

The CPA designation is a rigorous designation that is in high demand for young graduates with skills in financial expertise, strategic thinking, business insight, management and leadership.



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