



Making the most of your money



Taking the time to manage your money can make a real difference

Whatever stage of life you're at – whether you're saving into a pension for the first time, buying or renting a home, starting a family or planning to retire – there are always ways of making your money go further.

We can't cover everything in this guide, but we'll give you some hints and tips to help you along the way.

Understand your money

- Check out our free Budget planner which helps you review your household spending and take control of your money.
moneyhelper.org.uk/budget-planner
- Work out which debts to pay off first. This will help you clear your debts faster.
moneyhelper.org.uk/way-forward/bill-prioritiser
- Get help if you're struggling with debt. Find out where to get free debt advice.
moneyhelper.org.uk/debt-advice-locator

Get the money you're entitled to

- Make sure you're being paid the right amount. Check your payslip and tax code.
moneyhelper.org.uk/understanding-your-payslip
- Don't miss out on help when it's available – make sure you're claiming all the benefits you're entitled to.
moneyhelper.org.uk/en/benefits/benefits-calculator
- Having a baby or adopting? Find out what help is available.
moneyhelper.org.uk/baby-benefits
- Childcare costs can take up a large chunk of your family's income. Find out what help is available.
moneyhelper.org.uk/help-with-childcare-costs

Plan for the unexpected

- Get tips on how to protect your family, your home and your possessions with the right insurance.
moneyhelper.org.uk/insurance
- Choose who will receive your pension savings when you die.
moneyhelper.org.uk/dependants-in-retirement
- Find out why you should make a will and how to go about it.
moneyhelper.org.uk/making-a-will
- Appoint someone you trust who can act on your behalf if you become unable to manage your own affairs.
moneyhelper.org.uk/power-of-attorney
- Ending a relationship can have financial consequences – knowing your options can ease the process and lower the cost.
moneyhelper.org.uk/divorce-and-money-calculator
- Learn how to spot the signs and avoid losing your money to scams.
moneyhelper.org.uk/scams
- Know the facts about funding long-term care.
moneyhelper.org.uk/how-to-fund-long-term-care
- Find out how funeral plans work and how much they cost.
moneyhelper.org.uk/en/family-and-care/death-and-bereavement/planning-and-paying-for-your-funeral

Secure your future

- Thinking of how to buy your first or next home? Use this handy calculator to figure out how much you can afford.
moneyhelper.org.uk/mortgage-affordability-calculator
- Work out how much you can afford to save and find out how to set and reach your savings goal.
moneyhelper.org.uk/savings-habit
- If investing is an option, here's how you can get started.
moneyhelper.org.uk/beginners-guide-to-investing
- Make sure you're in a workplace pension.
moneyhelper.org.uk/workplace-pension
- Check how much you're saving and use our Pension calculator to find out if it's enough.
moneyhelper.org.uk/pension-calculator
- Find out what your retirement options are if you're aged 50 or over. Book your Pension Wise appointment.
moneyhelper.org.uk/pensionwise
- Sometimes, we all need a professional to help us make the right choices. Find a regulated financial adviser to help with your planning.
moneyhelper.org.uk/retirement-adviser-directory

Making your money and pension choices clearer

Whatever your circumstances, MoneyHelper is on your side. Online and over the phone, we offer clear guidance that's quick to find, easy to use and backed by government. We can also point you to trusted services if you need more support.

We can help you:

- deal with debt
- understand your pension options
- reduce your spending and build up savings
- navigate life events such as redundancy, relationship breakdown, retirement or bereavement
- budget for bills or major purchases
- learn about mortgages and renting
- find out about extra benefits and entitlements.

Just search for MoneyHelper: moneyhelper.org.uk

Free impartial guidance

online | over the phone

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Cymraeg

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Pensions guidance

0800 011 3797

Mon - Fri 9am to 5pm

Text relay services

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Service**

Calls from the UK are free. To help us maintain and improve our service, we may record or monitor calls.

Accessible formats

If you would like this guide in Braille, large print or audio format please contact us on the above numbers. Information correct at time of printing (April 2025). These guides are reviewed once a year.