

Budgeting Starter Set

Student pages · print and hand out

NEEDS VS. WANTS: ITEM CARDS

PRINT & CUT APART

Print and cut apart along the dashed lines. One set per pair or small group.

Rent

A place to live each month.

Phone plan

Monthly cell service and data.

Groceries

Food you cook and eat at home.

Concert tickets

A night out to see a favorite artist.

Bus pass

Monthly transit to get around town.

Streaming

A video or music subscription.

Doctor visit

A checkup or care when you are sick.

New sneakers

The latest shoes you have been eyeing.

Savings

Money set aside for later or emergencies.

Coffee

A daily drink bought on the way in.

Haircut

A trim or a fresh style.

Video game

A new release for your console.

Name(s) _____

Place each card in a column. You must agree as a group before you commit. Be ready to defend at least one call with a reason.

NEED	WANT

ONE CARD WE ARGUED ABOUT AND WHY

Name _____

You just landed a job. Your monthly take-home pay (after taxes) is **\$2,400**. Your job now: spread every dollar across the categories below so your plan adds up to the full amount. Fill in the Total row and make sure it lands on exactly \$2,400.

Category	Planned \$
Housing (rent + utilities)	
Food (groceries + eating out)	
Transportation	
Phone	
Savings	
Fun	
Other	
Total (must equal \$2,400)	

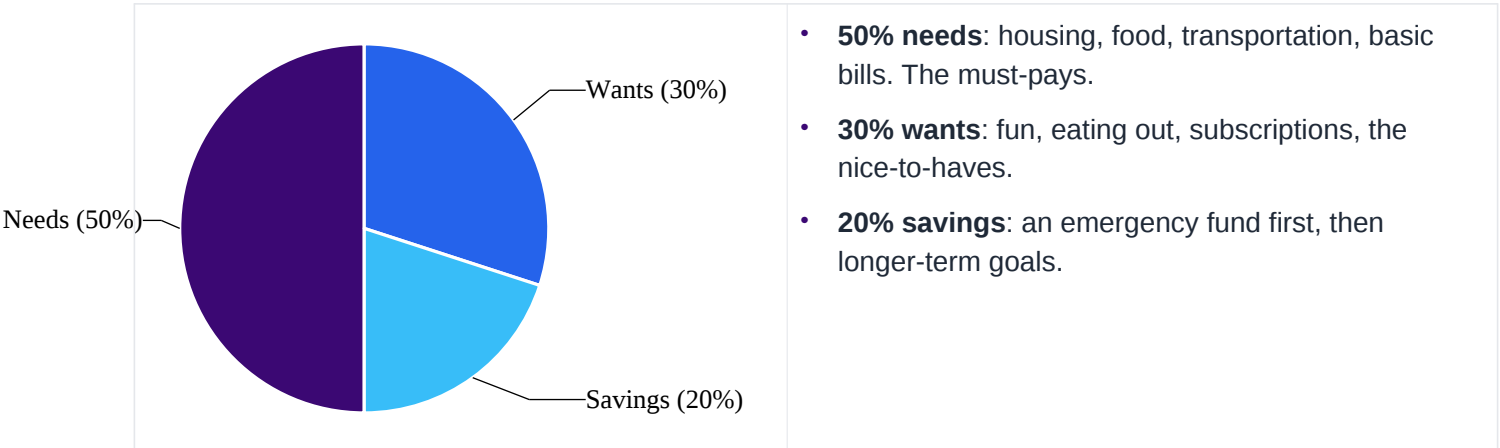
CURVEBALL: THE CAR BREAKS DOWN

Surprise: your car needs a \$300 repair this month and it cannot wait. That money has to come from somewhere. Rebalance your budget so it still totals \$2,400. Which category did you cut first, and why? Write your answer below the table.

WHAT I CUT FOR THE \$300 REPAIR, AND WHY

Name _____

Budgeting pros use a simple rule of thumb to sanity-check a plan. Split your take-home pay three ways:



Check your simulation against the rule

Take your \$2,400 plan from the salary simulation. On \$2,400, the rule says \$1,200 to needs, \$720 to wants, and \$480 to savings. How did you actually do?

Bucket	Rule says	My plan	Over / under?
Needs (50%)	\$1,200		
Wants (30%)	\$720		
Savings (20%)	\$480		

WHERE AM I OVER OR UNDER, AND WHAT WOULD I CHANGE?
