MoneySavingExpert.com FREE TO USE FREE OF ADS UK CONSUMER REVENGE

MARTIN LEWIS HELPS MANAGE YOUR MONEY

NEWS OF THE WORLD

Budget planner

HERE'S how to control your cash in 2009—with the aid of my unique budget planner. It will guide you through ALL your spending, helping you better manage your money in the difficult months ahead.

One thing, however—before you start make sure you've read the full instructions on the previous page. So now let's get started.

- FIRST fill in your earnings in Part A of the table on the right. If you're employed or on benefits enter your earnings after tax. If you're self employed add your earnings before tax but make sure you enter the tax later in table 13. If you're paid four-weekly, divide your income by four and enter it into the weekly column.
- THEN fill in the planner according to whether your spend is weekly, monthly or annual. Then work out what this adds up to on a monthly basis and jot it down in the monthly total column in Part B. Leave the monthly desired amount in Part C empty for the moment.
- ITEMS in the weekly column—multiply the amount by 4.33 (the average number of weeks in a month) and stick the answer in the monthly total column.
- ENTRIES in the monthly column—move the answer straight into the monthly total column.
- SUMS in the yearly column—divide the amount by 12 and write the answer in the monthly total column.
- FILL in your expenditure in tables 1 to 13.

PART A: WHAT DO YOU EARN?

	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	Monthly Total
Income From Employment / Self Employment				
Income From Savings & Investments				
Pension / Annuity Payouts				
Benefits (Including Child Benefit, Child Tax Credits & Income Support)				
Gifts From Family / Friends				
Other Income				
INCOME TOTAL				

1 IN YOUR HOME

	FILL IN FOR PART A			PART B	PART C
	Week	Month	Year	Monthly Total	Monthly Desired
Mortgage/Rent:					
Buildings & Contents Insurance:					
Bank Account Fee:					
Overdraft Cost:					
Council Tax:					
Water Rates/Meter:					
Gas					
Electricity					
Oil					
Household Maintenance:					
Garden Maintenance					
Cleaning Products/Cleaner					
Home Phone					
Internet					
TV Licence					
Mobile Phone					
Other Home					
HOME TOTAL					

HACK HUNDREDS OFF YOUR MORTGAGE

MAKE monster savings on your mortgage—they are much easier to achieve than you might think.

Save: £100 a month for each one per cent lower rate per £100,000 owed.

Read Martin's article: www.moneysavingexpert.com/mortgagebrokers.

2 INSURANCE

	FILL IN FOR PART A (Per)			PART B	PART C
	Week	Month	Year	Monthly Total	Monthly Desired
Level Term					
Mortgage Payment Protection					
Mortgage Term					
Pet					
Travel					
Gas & Plumbing/Boiler Cover					
Other Insurance					
INSURANCE TOTAL					

SEVER INSURANCE COSTS

CHOP your car insurance costs by speedily comparing scores of quotes. Don't think "it's not time to renew now"—you can still ditch, switch and save.

Save: Up to 50 per cent off your existing policy

Read Martin's article: www.moneysavingexpert.com/carins

3 EATS, DRINKS & SMOKES

	FILL IN FOR PART A			PART B	PART C
	Week	Month	Year	Monthly Total	Monthly Desired
Food and Household Shopping					
Eating Out					
Coffees/Sandwiches/Snacks					
Drinks for Home					
Drinking Out					
Smokes					
Meals at work					
Other Eats, Drinks & Smokes					
EATS TOTAL					

EAT OUT FOR HALF THE PRICE

IF you're in the know it's possible to never pay full price for a meal out. Using vouchers you can get '2for1' on tons of places like Zizzi, Pizza Express and GBK.

Save: 50 per cent off meals out.

Read Martin's daily updated deals list: www.moneysavingexpert.com/restaurantdeals

4 MOTORING & PUBLIC TRANSPORT

	FILL IN FOR PART A			PART B	PART C
	Week	Month	Year	Monthly Total	Monthly Desired
Breakdown Cover/Roadside Recovery					
Ra il/Bus/Coach/Taxi					
Car Maintenance					
Car Insurance					
Car Tax					
Parking					
Petrol/Diesel					
Other Transport					
TRANSPORT TOTAL					

CUT YOUR FUEL SPEND BY A THIRD

SAVE hundreds on your fuel bill by making your car more efficient. Think of the accelerator as a money pedal. By not over-revving and slowing naturally you can slash £££s from your motoring costs.

Save: 33 per cent off fuel bills.

Read Martin's article: www.moneysavingexpert.com/petrol

5 CARD & LOAN REPAYMENTS

	FILL IN FOR PART A			PART B	PART C
	Week	Month	Year	Monthly Total	Monthly Desired
Car Loan Repayments					
Personal Loan Repayment					
HP Repayments					
Credit Card Repayments					
Other Repayments					
REPAYMENTS TOTAL					

CRUSH CREDIT CARD DEBTS

IF YOU have existing credit card debts simply shift the debt to a new card at the cheapest rate. You'll need to shop around for the best deals, but there are good savings to be had.

Save: £150 per £1,000 debt.

Read Martin's article: www.moneysavingexpert.com/bts

TOTALS

TAKE the monthly total from each area and enter it in the box below. Then tot up your monthly spends to give you your final grand figure . . .

	TOTALS	MONTHLY SPEND	DESIRED SPEND
1	In Your Home		
2	Insurance		
3	Eats, Drinks & Smoke		
4	Transport & Travel		
5	Debt Repayments		
6	Family		
7	Savings & Investments		
8	Fun & Frolics		
9	Health & Beauty		
10	Clothes		
11	Education & Courses		
12	Big One Offs		
13	Odds & Sods		
	HOME TOTAL		

RESULTS

+ HAPPINESS

IN THE Green—HURRAH! You earn more than you spend.

Providing you've been honest with yourself, you can relax a little—but money saving doesn't stop there. In fact, it's just the beginning. Paying less for things means you have more money in your pocket to enjoy life more (and possibly save some for the future too!)

Watch out for Martin's weekly money saving column here for plenty more tips on how to slash the cost in every area of your budget.

— MISERY

IN THE Red—MISERY! You spend more than you earn.

Spending more than you earn may not seem like a big deal, yet it's a potential disaster—and not just financially. At best you'll be eating away at your savings; at worst, you'll need to borrow.

This type of borrowing is the WORST as it means you can't afford your lifestyle and so there's no planning to your debt and no end in sight.

Your finances need IMMEDIATE surgery. First look at where you can make pain-free savings, cutting bills without cutting back. Then rework your budget to see if you now spend less than you earn. If not, go back AGAIN and hunt for outgoings where you can cut back.

Keep an eye out here for Martin's weekly money saving column stacked with more tips on how to save money on EVERY bit in your budget.

MONTHLY MAGIC

ACHIEVE YOUR DESIRED MONTHLY SPEND

NOW you've worked out what you spend and where you can save, use Part C to match your spending to what you earn so it balances. Simply allocate the spending as necessary to match up what you plan to spend with the amount of money you have coming in. To help you, I've developed a technique called 'piggybanking'. See the next page for full details on how this works.

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- GOT a question? Email TV Money Guru Martin Lewis—creator of the Consumer Revenge website—at notw@MoneySavingExpert.com

NEED MORE PLANNERS?

- Go to the web site www.moneysavingexpert.com/banking/Budget-planning

13 ODDS & SODS

	FILL IN FOR PART A			PART B	PART C
	Week	Month	Year	Monthly Total	Monthly Desired
Regular Charity Donations					
Tax & NI Provisions (self-employed only)					
Newspapers & Magazines					
Other Odds & Sods					
ODDS & SODS TOTAL					

12 BIG ONE OFFS

	FILL IN FOR PART A			PART B	PART C
	Week	Month	Year	Monthly Total	Monthly Desired
Christmas					
Summer Holiday					
Winter Holiday					
Birthdays Article					
Sofa/Kitchen/TV					
Wedding Expenses					
Funeral Expenses					
Other Big One Offs					
BIG ONE OFF TOTAL					

CHEAP PACKAGE HOLIDAYS

HAGGLE hard to get your hands on bargain holiday prices. With the right techniques and timing, you can lop hundreds off package holidays.

Save: £500-plus.

Read Martin's article: www.moneysavingexpert.com/holidayhaggle

11 EDUCATION & COURSES

	FILL IN FOR PART A			PART B	PART C
	Week	Month	Year	Monthly Total	Monthly Desired
Your Courses					
School Fees					
University Tuition Fees					
Other Education Costs					
EDUCATION & COURSES TOTAL					

10 CLOTHES

	FILL IN FOR PART A			PART B	PART C
	Week	Month	Year	Monthly Total	Monthly Desired
New Clothes					
New Children's Clothes					
Work Clothes					
Other Clothes					
CLOTHES TOTAL					

9 HEALTH & BEAUTY

	FILL IN FOR PART A			PART B	PART C
	Week	Month	Year	Monthly Total	Monthly Desired
Fitness/Sports/Gym					
Private Medical Insurance					
Dental Insurance					
Healthcare Cashplans					
Beauty Treatments					
Dentistry					
Haircuts					
Optical Bills					
Complimentary Therapies					
Other Health & Beauty					
HEALTH & BEAUTY TOTAL					

8 FUN & FROLICS

	FILL IN FOR PART A			PART B	PART C
	Week	Month	Year	Monthly Total	Monthly Desired
DVD/Video Rental					
IT/Computing (eg Anti-virus etc)					
Hobbies					
Pet Costs					
Shopping for Fun					
Big Days Out					
Books/Music/Films/Computer Games					
Cinema/Theatre Trips					
Family Days Out					
Satellite/Digital TV Subscription					
Other Fun & Frolics					
FUN & FROLICS TOTAL					

7 SAVINGS & INVESTMENTS

	FILL IN FOR PART A			PART B	PART C
	Week	Month	Year	Monthly Total	Monthly Desired
Regular Savings					
Lump Sum Savings					
Mini Cash ISAs					
Investments					
Buying Shares					
Pension Payments					
Other Savings / Investments					
SAVINGS TOTAL					

6 FAMILY

	FILL IN FOR PART A			PART B	PART C
	Week	Month	Year	Monthly Total	Monthly Desired
Childcare/Play Schemes					
Baby Sitting					
Children's Travel					
Laundry/Dry Cleaning					
Nappies/Baby Extras					
Pocket Money					
School Meals					
School Trips					
Pet Food					
Other Family					
FAMILY TOTAL					

CURB CHILDCARE COSTS BY UP TO £1,000 A YEAR

A LITTLE known scheme allows you to bag childcare vouchers from pre-tax income meaning basic-rate tax-payers can save £300 per £1,000 of childcare.

Save: £900/year per parent

Read Martin's article: www.moneysavingexpert.com/childcare