

LOVE &  
MONEY

**YOUR  
FINANCIAL  
JOURNAL**

currency  
conversations

CHASE

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“SURROUND  
YOURSELF  
WITH ONLY  
PEOPLE WHO  
ARE GOING  
TO LIFT YOU  
HIGHER.”

OPRAH WINFREY

ER  
ND  
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XES  
SAVE  
NEWS  
ITEMS  
RATES  
LOANS  
SURPRISES  
TICKETS  
MOVE OUT  
LUXURIES  
CONCERTS  
MY SAVINGS  
JOB CHANGES  
OWN A HOUSE  
GET A NEW CAR  
PARENT'S CARE  
SMALL BUSINESS  
MUSIC FESTIVALS  
DEBT REDUCTION  
COLLEGE TUITION  
RAINY DAY FUND  
HOME UPGRADES  
RETIREMENT PLAN  
A DREAM VACATION  
TO SUPPORT MY KIDS  
AVE EMERGENCY FUND

Healthy relationships are the foundation of strong communities. A shared vision can create a financial journey that inspires those around you.

## ALIGN YOUR GOALS

When we partner with another person we bring our money beliefs, perspectives, and habits into the relationship. Often, the partnership helps us rise to new levels and achieve more than we ever could alone.

Sometimes, there isn't a clear path to merging financial lives—whether you are just starting out or have been together for decades. Building a pathway to financial success starts with getting clear about where you are now and the values and vision you share. With a shared vision as your focus, you can create a plan that honors your individuality and your relationship.

# JUMPING THE FINANCIAL BROOM

Jumping the broom signifies two becoming one and represents “sweeping away” past problems and concerns. Get a fresh start on your financial lives no matter how long you have been together.

## TALK ABOUT IT

Set aside time to talk about how you **BOTH** feel about where you are right now and your vision for the future. Most goals will have financial impact so getting a clear picture about where you are now is important. It can help you focus on the areas that you share the same or similar perspectives and notice the areas that you may have to develop shared agreements.

### Consider these questions as discussion topics:

- What are your core values? How do your money choices reflect your values?
- What are your beliefs about money?
- What money messages did you learn as a child?
- How do early money messages affect your communication now?



## EXPLORE YOUR MONEY MINDSET

Each partner should complete the statements below, then talk about the areas you notice that are similar and the topics where you have different perspectives



More money...

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If money wasn't an issue I would...

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The money choice I am most proud of is...

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The money choice I wish I could do over is...

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Money is...

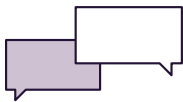
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Write your top five values:

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Identify shared values and discuss how they impact your financial choices.

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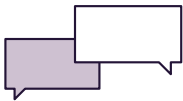
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Write your top five values:

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Identify shared values and discuss how they impact your financial choices.

# COUPLES MONEY MAP

Describe your short-, medium-, and long-term goals.

How will money impact your journey?

**Short-term goals (1–5 years)**

**Medium-term goals (5–10 years)**

**Long-term goals (10+ years)**

# SMART GOALS

Develop SMART goals to clarify your ideas, manage your efforts, and direct your time and resources towards achieving you set out to accomplish.

A large, white, outlined letter 'S' with a diagonal slash through it, positioned to the left of the 'SPECIFIC' heading.

## **SPECIFIC**

We want to have a rainy day fund in a savings account.

A large, white, outlined letter 'M' with a diagonal slash through it, positioned to the left of the 'MEASURABLE' heading.

## **MEASURABLE**

Our target is \$200.

A large, white, outlined letter 'A' with a diagonal slash through it, positioned to the left of the 'ACHIEVABLE' heading.

## **ACHIEVABLE**

We'll set up a budget and prioritize saving \$10 each week for 20 weeks.

A large, white, outlined letter 'R' with a diagonal slash through it, positioned to the left of the 'RELEVANT' heading.

## **RELEVANT**

We often worry about money when we have a financial setback.

A large, white, outlined letter 'T' with a diagonal slash through it, positioned to the left of the 'TIMEBOUND' heading.

## **TIMEBOUND**

We will save \$200 by (date).



## Shared SMART goal

GOAL

COMPLETE BY

PROJECTED AMOUNT

A **SMART GOAL** IS SPECIFIC, MEASURABLE, ACTIONABLE, RELEVANT, AND TIMEBOUND.

S

M

A

R

T

## 2 FINDING FINANCIAL "HARMONEY"

Now that you have explored your individual beliefs about money (and how your shared and different perspectives impact your current financial conversations) let's look at the goals you have chosen to focus on and the options you have now. Partnerships are rarely 50/50 and you can choose the best approach to balance the resources with money and effort to maximize the financial health of your relationship.

### TALK ABOUT IT

Review your SMART goal and keep in mind that the two of you will decide how to move forward. You may find that another priority has risen to the top or something unexpected is screaming for attention. Breathe, refocus and get grounded in the shared vision before you start the next steps.



1. Review your SMART goal and the steps you plan to take. Who will be responsible for the actions you agreed upon?

2. How will you manage competing priorities?

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3. How will you manage bank and credit accounts?

**Bank:**       Joint       Separate       Combination

**Credit:**       Joint       Separate       Combination

## Organize financial documents

INITIALS	ACTION ITEM	DUE DATE	COMPLETE
<input type="text"/>	Gather documents and financial records	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="text"/>	Sort (by month or category)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="text"/>	Review (action or file)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="text"/>	File (electronic or paper)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# 3/ BUILDING A ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE

With a clear vision for your financial life, you can create a plan with milestones to help you stay on track and motivated on the journey. Developing guidelines for how you will make decisions can keep emotions in check when financial shocks or windfalls come into play. If you already know the basics of financial management you have a head start. If there are some topics you are not sure about, getting reliable and trusted information can help you avoid pitfalls.

## TALK ABOUT IT

Consider your combined financial knowledge and comfort level with the decisions you will need to make in order to achieve your desired outcome. Often, one person in the relationship feels more comfortable with the details of financial management so keep in mind “no shame” and create a safe space to talk about money even if it is new to you or you have made some missteps in the past.

1. Making money moves
  - What do you know, what do you need to know about personal finance?
  - Review your goals and think about what information you need in order to make progress.
  - What milestones will help you maintain motivation and overcome obstacles?

## MAKE DECISIONS

1. Create a cash flow calendar. Set up a calendar (physical or digital) that includes all income and outflows according to the day of the month.
2. Create “money rules” for each of these topics:

Budgets—how often will you review and update?

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Credit/Debt—how will you decide when and how to use credit and/or debt?

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Sharing with others/Gifts—will you make loans or gifts to others? If so, what is the limit?

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# 4/ HOLDING THE VISION

Practicing any new behavior can have ups and downs, so take a moment to reflect on what you have been doing and the impact your choices have on your goals. Don't trip if you find that you slipped or the actions aren't quite as straightforward as you thought. Good thing you have a partner on this journey! Think about the vision you created for your financial life and put it through the reality check.

## TALK ABOUT IT

Have an honest (no blame or shame) conversation about what is working and what you want to change. Remember you are in this for the long haul and you may have to make adjustments along the way. Talk about the areas that have been easy AND those that have been more challenging. What's next?

What has been successful so far? What is working and what do you want to revisit?

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What motivates you (individually and as a couple)? How can you maintain inspiration (and action) over the long term?

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# 5/ BUILDING A LEGACY

What will your life and legacy look like as you continue the journey to your goals? How can you build on what you have done so far and what impact do you want your efforts to have on the people you care about?

## TALK ABOUT IT

Before you begin this money talk, take some time to revisit the money map you created. Imagine the best possible outcome for all of the ideas you had and the dreams you wrote down. Share your thoughts with each other about the importance of each of the goals and how you envision your legacy.

- What will be your legacy? How will your financial choices support your intentions?
- How will your family and community be impacted by your approach to financial topics/concerns? How do you want to communicate with others about money/financial choices?

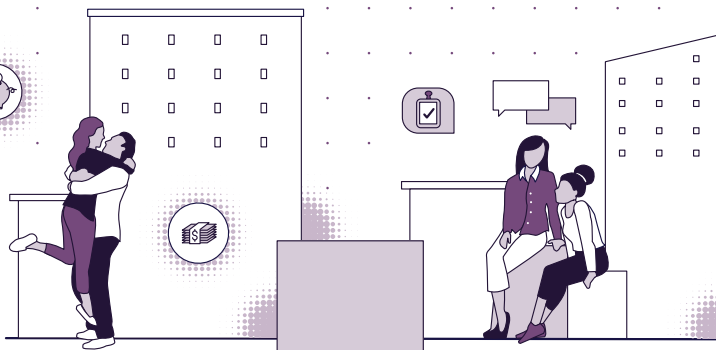
**“LOOK CLOSELY AT THE PRESENT YOU  
ARE CONSTRUCTING. IT SHOULD  
LOOK LIKE THE FUTURE YOU  
ARE DREAMING.”**

ALICE WALKER

## BE ABOUT IT

Review where you are now, focus on:

- Having a clear vision of your “why.”
- Creating goals with “mini-actions” that move you in the direction of your desired outcome.
- Aligning your plan for daily/weekly/monthly financial behaviors that are consistent with your “why.”
- Staying accountable to each other. Are you on the same page? How often will you review your goals and milestones?
- A positive money mindset; maintaining and recognizing the money thoughts that help and those that harm. Surround yourself with people who support your goals.
- Celebrating your progress by checking your numbers and reassessing your goals regularly.





# MONEY DATES

Set a Schedule to talk about your goals, progress and next steps.

DATE	TOPIC	COMPLETE
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# ACTION LIST

LEARN MORE or TAKE ACTION

PRIORITY	ACTION ITEM	DUE DATE	COMPLETE
<input type="checkbox"/>	Update goals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Organize money records	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Create/update financial statements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Credit management plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Create a budget	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Net worth/balance sheet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# BUDGET BUILDER WORKSHEET

Knowing your income and expenses is the first step to managing your money. Complete this worksheet or go online to get a snapshot of your monthly spending.

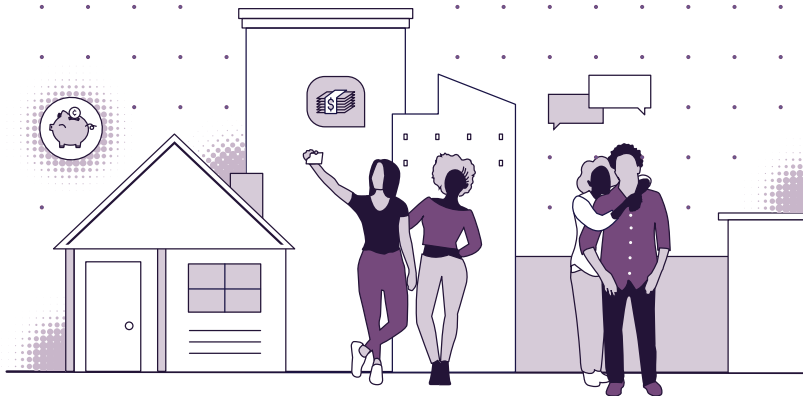


Scan to access this resource online.

[chase.com/budgetbuilder](https://chase.com/budgetbuilder)

## MONTHLY INCOME (AFTER TAXES)

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Income		\$ _____
Income		\$ _____
	TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME	\$ _____



## MONTHLY EXPENSES

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Home		\$
Utilities		\$
Groceries		\$
Transportation		\$
Personal Debt		\$
Child Care & Tuition		\$
Health & Personal Care		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
	TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES	\$

## YOUR MONTHLY SPENDING SUMMARY

TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME	MONTHLY EXPENSES	REMAINING MONTHLY SAVINGS
\$	- \$	= \$

# BALANCE SHEET/NET WORTH

A balance sheet is a snapshot of what you own and what you owe. The difference is your “net worth.” A positive net worth can help you take advantage of opportunities or deal with financial setbacks.

## ASSETS

### WHAT WE OWN

Our house \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Our car \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Our furnishings \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cash in bank \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Retirement savings \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ASSETS** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## LIABILITIES

### WHAT WE OWE

Mortgage \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2nd mortgage \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Car loan \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Student loan \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card balances \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL LIABILITIES** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## CALCULATE YOUR NET WORTH

ASSETS \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Minus (-) LIABILITIES \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Equals (=)

\$

**NET WORTH**

## CREDIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Your credit reports change frequently so monitor all three regularly and take action if the information is incorrect or out of date.

### Complete the following:

- Get all three reports (TransUnion, Equifax, Experian)
- Check for accuracy (personal information and accounts)
- Look for potential fraud (accounts you don't recognize)
- Dispute errors

DATE  
FOR NEXT  
CHECK UP



Scan to sign up for Chase Credit Journey<sup>SM</sup> for free unlimited access to your credit score and more.

[chase.com/creditjourney](https://chase.com/creditjourney)

**Remember, each one of you have your own credit report and score. Joint accounts are reflected on both records.**



# GLOSSARY

**Personal financial statements:** Personal financial statements show your financial situation at a given point in time (a specific month, or end of year). The three statements: cash flow, balance sheet, and net worth give you information to monitor your income and expenses, which can help you create a plan to increase your wealth.

**Cash flow statement:** Your income (salaries, business income or interest income) and expenses (mortgage or rent, utilities, etc.) at a given point in time. Subtract your expenses from your income to determine if you have a positive (money left over) or negative (more expenses than income) cash flow. This information helps you plan your future spending (budget).

**Balance sheet:** Lists your assets (what you own) and your liabilities (what you owe). Your assets may include bank accounts (savings, checking), real estate (home, rental property), cars or furniture. Your liabilities are any debts or outstanding balances on the things you own.

**Net Worth:** Your net worth is the difference between what you own and what you owe and represents your “wealth” because it shows the balance of your assets once all of your debts are paid off. If you have more assets than debt you have a positive net worth. If you have more debt than assets you have a negative net worth.







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## KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING

Schedule an appointment with a Chase® banker to see how we can help meet your goals.



Help your child take the next step with our resources and advice.



Find ways to help boost your financial health



CONGRATULATIONS on completing this part of the journey. By now you know that making change is easier when you believe change is possible, AND you have the tools that can help. You and your partner have started the Currency Conversations so now is the time to make the plan for where you will go next.

What is YOUR next financial goal together?

What are you going to do to achieve it?

X  
SA  
NE  
ITEM  
RAT  
LOAD  
RPRIS  
TICKE  
MOVE O  
LUXURI  
CONCER  
MY SAVIN  
JOB CHANG  
OWN A HOU  
ET A NEW CA  
PARENT'S CA  
SMALL BUSINE  
MUSIC FESTIVA  
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MY PERFECT WEDDIN

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