

THE COUPLE'S MONEY WORKSHEET

The following exercises are designed to help you and your partner “open your books” to each other and begin the process of having open, honest, and frequent conversations about money. If you’re in a new relationship or have never talked finances before, have a few informal conversations before diving into these exercises.

YOUR CREDIT AND DEBT

1

Your combined credit histories and debt levels will impact both of your financial futures. Together, request free copies of your credit reports from AnnualCreditReport.com and your credit scores from CreditKarma.com. Write down all the debts listed on your credit report, and talk about any credit problems you’ve had in the past. Share why they happened, and what you can do together now to do better.

Name: _____	Name: _____
CREDIT SCORE <input type="text"/>	CREDIT SCORE <input type="text"/>
CONSUMER DEBT* <input type="text"/>	CONSUMER DEBT* <input type="text"/>
STUDENT LOAN DEBT <input type="text"/>	STUDENT LOAN DEBT <input type="text"/>
MORTGAGE DEBT <input type="text"/>	MORTGAGE DEBT <input type="text"/>
TOTAL DEBT <input type="text"/>	TOTAL DEBT <input type="text"/>

*Include credit card balances, auto loans, and personal loans.

YOUR ASSETS AND NET WORTH

2

Now it’s time to talk about your assets...the money you have in the bank, investment accounts, and properties (or even businesses) you own. This can be uncomfortable for couples—especially unmarried couples—because assets that are acquired *before* marriage obviously belong to one of you, not both of you. It’s important to keep that in mind during this exercise. By sharing your assets with your partner, you’re exercising financial transparency, not necessarily assigning joint control over money or property...

Name: _____	Name: _____
CASH* <input type="text"/>	CASH* <input type="text"/>
INVESTMENTS** <input type="text"/>	INVESTMENTS** <input type="text"/>
OTHER ASSETS*** <input type="text"/>	OTHER ASSETS*** <input type="text"/>
TOTAL ASSETS <input type="text"/>	TOTAL ASSETS <input type="text"/>
Total Assets - Total Debts = Net Worth	
NET WORTH <input type="text"/>	NET WORTH <input type="text"/>

*Include cash on hand and the cash balances of any checking, savings, or money market accounts.

**Include stocks, bonds, and other securities, including the balances of any retirement accounts.

***Include real estate, automobiles and business interests, but not other personal property.

THE COUPLE'S MONEY WORKSHEET (CON'T)

YOUR FINANCIAL VALUES

3

Everybody places different values on different things. It's important to talk about what you don't mind spending money on, the kinds of things you want to save for, and how much money you envision spending on big purchases down the road. Whenever you and your partner have different values, it's important to discuss them in detail. For this exercise, both you and your partner should consider the following questions alone, write down your answers, and then share them with your partner one by one.

1. What three things do you most enjoy buying?
2. If you had to drastically cut back your spending, what would be the hardest thing to give up?
3. What three things do you most dislike spending money on?
4. What would you do with \$1,000,000?
5. How much money would you need in the bank to retire right now?
6. If you didn't have to work, what would you do all day?
7. For the following big purchases, how much do you picture spending on them?
 - Your next vacation.
 - Your wedding (if not already married).
 - Your next car.
 - Your next home.

YOUR GOALS

4

In the last exercise, we asked some hypothetical money questions to tease out your values and what money means to you. Now, it's time to get realistic and discuss your big picture goals. Not only is it a good idea to share your long-term goals with your partner, doing so will help you understand each other's relationship with money and how you both expect to use money to help you accomplish these goals over the next many years. As in the last exercise, both you and your partner should consider the following questions alone, write down your answers, and then share them with your partner one by one.

1. A year from now, how do you want your finances to be different?
2. Five years from now, how much money do you think you'll be earning—and where will it come from?
3. Five years from now, what do you want your life to look like?
4. Ten years from now, how much money do you think you'll be earning—and where will it come from?
5. Ten years from now, what do you want your life to look like?
6. How do you picture your retirement?
7. What are three things on your "bucket list"...that you absolutely want to do sometime in your life?