



Family Economics

GOALS

- ✓ Talk about future plans
- ✓ Read and interpret ads
- ✓ Calculate savings
- ✓ Make predictions
- ✓ Read and interpret a check stub
- ✓ Practice the future tense with *going to* and *will*
- ✓ Create a household budget
- ✓ Understand how to use coupons
- ✓ Use future real conditionals
- ✓ Use verbs that take infinitives
- ✓ Discuss steps to finding a job



What does Erika plan to do?
Write a sentence under each picture.

1 Read and Listen Read the story. Then listen to the story.

David's Birthday

David's birthday is on March 15. Erika is going to have a surprise party for him. She wants to have the party outside. If it rains, she'll have the party in their apartment. She plans to invite all their neighbors. She likes them and wants to get to know them better. She might call David's aunt and uncle, too. This afternoon she is going to buy some candles and order a big birthday cake. Then, on David's birthday, she is going to cook something delicious. Maybe she'll cook barbecue chicken because that's David's favorite food.

Erika is also going to buy David something nice for his birthday. She might buy him a new shirt if she can find one that she really likes. She doesn't have much money, so she is going to pay with her credit card.

She might take David dancing on Saturday night. And then, on Sunday, she plans to type up her resume and start looking for a job. If she is lucky, she might find one soon. She doesn't want to owe a lot of money on her credit card!



Word Help: Uncertainty or possibility

Going to and *will* both show future certainty. *Might*, *may*, *maybe*, *probably*, *possibly*, *likely*, and *if* show a future that is possible, but uncertain.

Erika **is going** to buy a present for David. (certain or definite)

She **might** buy a shirt or she **may** buy a CD. (uncertain, but possible)

- 2 Write** On a piece of paper, list all the things from the reading that Erika is going to do, and the things that she may or might do.

SHE IS GOING TO . . .

have a surprise party for David

SHE MIGHT . . .

call David's aunt and uncle

CRITICAL THINKING:

Is it a good idea for Erika to have a surprise party for David? Why or why not? Do you like surprise parties? Why or why not?



Plans and Predictions

Lesson

1

1 Say It Practice the conversation with a partner.



a fancy blue shirt

A: What is Erika going to get David for his birthday?

B: She's going to get him a shirt.

A: Are you sure?

B: Yes. She told me that she's going to get him a fancy blue shirt.

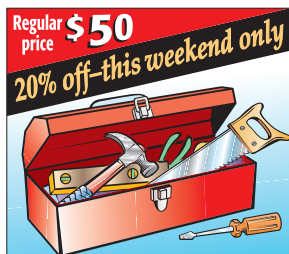
A: That's a good idea. I'm sure he'll like it.

B: I hope so.

A: Don't worry. He will.

Practice more conversations. Use the pictures below.

David's uncle



1. a new set of tools

David's aunt



2. a box of Belgian chocolates

David's brother



3. three music CDs

2 Problem Solving Read the ads and answer the questions.

1. How much is Erika going to save if she buys the shirt this week?

2. How much is David's brother going to pay for the three CDs?

3. How much is he going to save?

4. How much will David's aunt save if she buys the chocolate this week?

5. How much will Erika have to pay if she buys the shirt next week?

6. Who is going to save the most money?

Culture Tip

Sale days

Many businesses in the U.S. have special sale days. Sometimes they are on holidays or holiday weekends, like the 4th of July. You can often buy things for 10–50 percent less on special sale days. Do businesses in your country have special sale days?

GRAMMAR CHECK

Future with *be going to* + verb

We usually use *be going to* + verb to talk about a definite future plan. Plans are things we can decide for ourselves. We think about them in advance. Usually we can control them.

I'm **going to cook** barbecue chicken for dinner tomorrow night.
(It's my choice. I have already decided what to cook.)

Check Point:

✓ We don't usually use *will* to talk about future plans unless the plans are very formal or the plan is possible, but not definite.

We **will probably eat** at about eight o'clock.

Word Help: Future time expressions

tonight	this weekend	a week from Saturday
tomorrow morning	next weekend	two weeks from today
tomorrow evening	next Saturday	the week after next
the day after tomorrow	next spring	next year

3 Write Write about your future plans. Use *going to* if you have definite plans. Use *will probably* for possible, but not definite plans.

1. (tonight) *Tonight I am going to* _____
2. (tomorrow morning) _____
3. (this weekend) _____
4. (next Saturday) _____
5. (next summer) _____
6. (next year) _____

4 Pair Practice Work with a partner. Ask about his or her future plans. Use the time expressions in Activity 3 or other time expressions. Use *going to do* in your questions. Use *going to* in your answers for definite plans. Use *will probably* or *might* for possible, but not definite plans.

Count vs. noncount nouns

Count nouns are used for things that can be counted individually. They have singular and plural forms: **a book, two pencils**.

Noncount nouns are used for things we don't usually count individually. They don't have a plural form.

- general categories like **money, cash, food, furniture** are usually noncount.
- liquids—**water, milk, coffee**—are noncount.
- abstract ideas like **peace, freedom, and love** are usually noncount.

Check Point:

✓ You can buy *two pieces of furniture*, but not *two furnitures*. You can have three *dollars*, but not three *moneys*. You can have *two cups of coffee*, but not *two coffees*. You can have *two spoons of sugar* or *two packets of sugar*, but not *two sugars*. However, in informal conversation, people sometimes say, "I'd like *two coffees*" instead of *two cups of coffee*.

Note: Indefinite articles

Use *a* or *an* for singular count nouns only. Don't use *a* or *an* for plural or noncount nouns. We often use *some* for plural and noncount nouns.

Don't forget to buy **(some)** napkins. I'm looking for **(some)** information on the Boston Tea Party.

5 Write Write "C" for count or "NC" for noncount for the underlined words. Then complete the sentences with *a*, *an*, or \emptyset for no article.

- _____ 1. Use _____ credit card.
- _____ 2. Pay for something expensive with _____ cash.
- _____ 3. Ask for _____ information.
- _____ 4. Cash _____ check.
- _____ 5. Buy _____ food at the supermarket.
- _____ 6. Have _____ outside party for your friends.
- _____ 7. Give someone _____ jewelry.
- _____ 8. Read _____ junk mail.
- _____ 9. Buy magazines in _____ bookstore.
- _____ 10. Use _____ coupon to buy groceries.
- _____ 11. Buy _____ champagne for a celebration.
- _____ 12. Write _____ apology to your friends.

- 6 Pair Practice** Work with a partner. Ask what he or she is going to do next month. Use the ideas from Activity 5 or your own ideas.

Example: *Student 1:* Are you going to use a credit card next month?
Student 2: Yes, I am. OR No, I'm not.

- 7 Pair Practice** Work with a partner. List ten count and ten noncount items you can buy in a supermarket. Then ask your partner which items he or she is going to buy this week.

Example: Are you going to buy apples this week?
Are you going to buy a CD this week?

- 8 Teamwork Task** Work in teams of four to five. Choose a volunteer to talk to the team for 2–3 minutes about his or her plans or ideas for the future. Then, the rest of the team writes predictions about the volunteer. Write at least eight sentences.

Example: *José is going to go to Los Angeles. He will probably go in June. He is going to visit his uncle and cousins. He will probably stay with his cousins because they have a bigger house. They will probably take him to Hollywood. He is definitely going to go to Disneyland.*

Choose a reporter to tell the class the predictions about your teammate.

Game Time

Telephone

Sit or stand in lines of six to eight students. Your teacher will give the first person in each line a sentence about a prediction or someone's plans. Student 1 should turn around and whisper the sentence to Student 2, then Student 2 to Student 3, and so on. (Be careful: if another team can hear and repeat your sentence, you lose the game!) The last student will tell the teacher the sentence he or she heard. If the sentence is exactly the same as the teacher's sentence, your team wins.

Homework

Ask a family member or a friend about his or her plans for the future. Write down the plans. Then write five predictions about the same person. Are your predictions and his or her plans the same?



1 Problem Solving Answer the questions about David's pay stub with complete sentences.

DOWNTOWN AUTO – PAYMENT RECEIPT		
EMPLOYEE: David Gonzalez	REGULAR HOURS:..... 160	Med. Ins.: Provided by employer
ID: 605188	RATE:..... \$20.00/hour	
	OT hours:..... 5	
	OT rate:..... \$30.00/hour	
DATE: March 21	GROSS PAY:..... \$3,350.00	NET PAY: ...\$2,948.00
	FICA:..... \$100.50	
	Fed:..... \$301.50	

OT = overtime

FICA = Social Security

gross pay = your pay before taxes
are taken out

net pay = your pay after taxes

- Who is David's employer?

- How much is David's normal pay rate?

- How much is his pay rate if he works overtime?

- How much did he pay for medical insurance?

- How much will David's check be this month?

- How much did he earn before taxes?

- How much did he pay for Social Security?

- How often does David get paid?

- How many hours did David work altogether this month?

- How much tax did David pay?

- 2 Group Practice** Work in groups of three to four. Talk with your group about monthly expenses. Make a list of bills that most families have to pay every month. These are *necessary* expenses. Then make a list of other things people spend money on every month. These are *optional* expenses. Write as many expenses as you can.

NECESSARY

rent _____

OPTIONAL

cigarettes _____

- 3 Listen** Listen to Erika and David talk about their monthly expenses. Fill in the chart below with the amounts you hear.

Rent	\$850	Buses	\$15/week/\$60/month
Water	_____	Groceries	_____
Gas and electricity	\$65	Restaurants	_____
Telephone	_____	Coffee	_____
Cable TV	_____	Clothing	_____
Cell phone	\$39	Entertainment	_____
Car payment	_____	Savings	0
Car insurance	_____	Credit card payment	_____
Gasoline	_____	Other	_____
Car repairs	_____	Total:	\$ _____

- 4 Problem Solving** Work with a partner. Pretend that you are a family with a net income of \$4,000 a month. Plan your budget for next month. Decide how much you are going to spend for each category. When you finish, tell the class about your budget.

Rent	_____	Other transportation	_____
Water	_____	Groceries	_____
Gas and electricity	_____	Restaurants	_____
Telephone	_____	Snacks	_____
Cable TV	_____	Clothing	_____
Cell phone	_____	Entertainment	_____
Car payment	_____	Savings	_____
Car insurance	_____	Credit cards	_____
Gasoline	_____	Other	_____
Car repairs	_____	Total:	_____

5 Write Answer the questions about the coupons.



1. If David buys eight light bulbs on March 21, how much will he pay?

2. When will the Save Off coupon expire? _____
3. If Erika buys four bottles of Cola on March 29, how much will she pay?

4. If Erika buys four bottles of Cola on April 1, how much will she pay?

5. If Erika buys eight bottles of Cola on March 30, how much will she pay?

6. If David buys a \$150 desk on 3/31, how much will he pay for it?

7. If David buys a \$50 answering machine on April 1, how much will he pay for it? _____
8. If David buys the same answering machine from the same store over the Internet, how much will he pay?

9. If David buys a \$14 box of pens on sale this week, how much will he pay? _____
10. If David buys a \$400 computer on March 30, how much will he pay?

GRAMMAR CHECK

Future conditional

In future real conditionals, use *present tense* for the condition (If I **go** to the supermarket) and *future tense* for the result (I **will buy** some milk):

If I **go** to the supermarket, I **will buy** some milk.

If I **buy** some ice cream, I **won't eat** it all tonight.





When the *if* clause comes first in the sentence, use a *comma* to separate the two clauses. But if the result clause comes first, don't use a comma.

If I feel hungry, I will eat my sandwich.

I'll eat my sandwich if I feel hungry.

- 6 Write** Match the conditions in column A with the results in column B.
Use the picture to help you.

4 DIFFERENT WAYS TO PURCHASE

 <p>Vista CREDIT CARD Interest rate: 14.9% Annual fee: \$50 Late fee: \$29</p>	 <p>BIG STORE Charge Card Interest rate: 21.9% No annual fee Late fee: \$35</p>	 <p>Bank of California DEBIT CARD Immediate withdrawal on all purchases Overdraft penalty: \$25</p>	 <p>Ms. Smith LOAN DEPARTMENT Consumer Loans: 8.9%</p>
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annual fee = the fee that most credit card companies charge you every year for using the card

late fee = the amount you are charged if you send in your payment late, after the due date

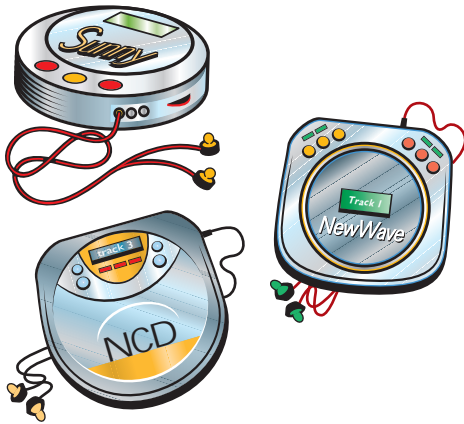
overdraft penalty = a fee you are charged when you buy something with your debit card and it costs more than what you have in your account; also charged if you write a check for more than the amount in your account

loan = money borrowed (from a bank, credit union, etc.) at a rate of interest

interest = money you must pay for borrowing money

- | | |
|--|---|
| A | B |
| <p>___ 1. If David wants a Vista card,</p> <p>___ 2. If Erika uses the Big Store charge card,</p> <p>___ 3. If Erika and David buy something expensive,</p> <p>___ 4. If David pays by credit card,</p> <p>___ 5. If David doesn't pay the bill on time,</p> <p>___ 6. If David doesn't use his credit card,</p> <p>___ 7. If they use a debit card,</p> <p>___ 8. If there isn't enough money in your account and you use a debit card,</p> | <p>a. he will have to pay a late fee.</p> <p>b. they probably won't pay cash.</p> <p>c. he'll have to pay a \$50 fee per year.</p> <p>d. you will pay an overdraft penalty.</p> <p>e. they won't have to pay interest.</p> <p>f. she'll have to pay 21.9% interest.</p> <p>g. he will have to pay 14.9% interest.</p> <p>h. he will use his debit card.</p> |

7 Say It Practice the conversation with a partner.



- A: Which CD player would you like?
B: I'll take the New Wave.
A: Good choice. How would you like to pay for it? Credit card, store charge card, debit card, or cash?
B: If I use the store card, how much will the interest rate be?
A: It's 21 percent.
B: That's really high. I think I'll use my debit card instead.

Note: Quick decisions

It is more common to use *will*, not *going to*, for quick decisions—decisions we make at the time of speaking.

I'll take the red one. (Something I just now decided.)

I'm going to buy a red car. (Something I planned in advance.)

8 Group Practice Work in groups of three to four. Write a conditional sentence for each possibility.

1. Pauline might cook dinner.

If she cooks dinner, she will probably cook Chinese food.

2. Elena might buy a new pair of sneakers.

3. Rebecca might go to the gym.

4. Henri and Marie might take a vacation next summer.

5. John and Pauline might see a movie this weekend.

6. Erika might get a driver's license.

Homework

Look for coupons. You can find them in the newspaper (especially in the Sunday paper!) or in the mail. Bring some coupons to class and show them to your classmates. What is the product? How much will you save if you use the coupon?



Hopes and Dreams

1 **Read and Listen** Read the story. Then listen to the story.

Hopes and Dreams

Erika and her friends and neighbors have lots of plans for the future. They also have hopes and dreams. Erika plans to send out her resume this week. She expects to have some job interviews soon. She hopes to find a job that she likes. After she gets a job, she and David intend to start saving money. They hope to buy a house in the next couple of years, but first they need to save enough money for a down payment. After they buy a house, Erika and David would like to have two or three children. That is their dream.

Pauline is working as a cashier right now, but she plans to take classes at the community college when her English is good enough. She wants to take some accounting classes. Eventually, she intends to study real estate. She hopes to get a real estate license and to become a successful real estate agent.

Elena's hopes and dreams are about her son, Alex. She plans to send Alex to kindergarten in the fall. Right now he is learning how to say all the letters of the alphabet, but he doesn't know how to write them yet. Elena wants him to write letters and numbers before he starts school. She expects him to be a good student. She knows that education is the door to a good job. She wants him to have a happy life and a successful career in the United States.

2 **Write** Write the missing words.

1. Erika plans _____ this week.
2. Erika expects _____ soon.
3. Erika and David intend _____ after Erika gets a job.
4. Erika and David would like _____.
5. Pauline plans _____.
6. Eventually Pauline intends _____.
7. Pauline hopes someday _____.
8. Elena plans _____ in the fall.
9. Elena expects Alex _____.
10. Elena wants Alex _____.

Infinitives

An infinitive (*to shop, to play, to smile*) is the base form of a verb preceded by *to*. Some verbs can be followed by infinitives, but most verbs cannot. Some common verbs followed by infinitives are *need, want, like, would like, plan, hope, expect, intend, know how, learn how, and decide*.

I **like to read**. She **wants to buy** a car.

3 Write Find the infinitives in the story on page 53. List the infinitives and the main verbs that are followed by the infinitives.

4 Write Write sentences about yourself using infinitives as objects of the verbs.

1. In the future I plan _____.
2. Next weekend I would like _____.
3. After class I need _____.
4. I know how _____.
5. I want to learn how _____.
6. I expect my children _____.
7. Some day I hope _____.
8. In the past I decided _____.
9. Tomorrow I intend _____.
10. Someday I want _____.

5 Say It Practice the conversation with a partner. Ask your own questions for number three.



A: What are your plans for the future?

B: First I plan to send out my resume.

A: And then?

B: After I send out my resume, I'll probably go on job interviews.

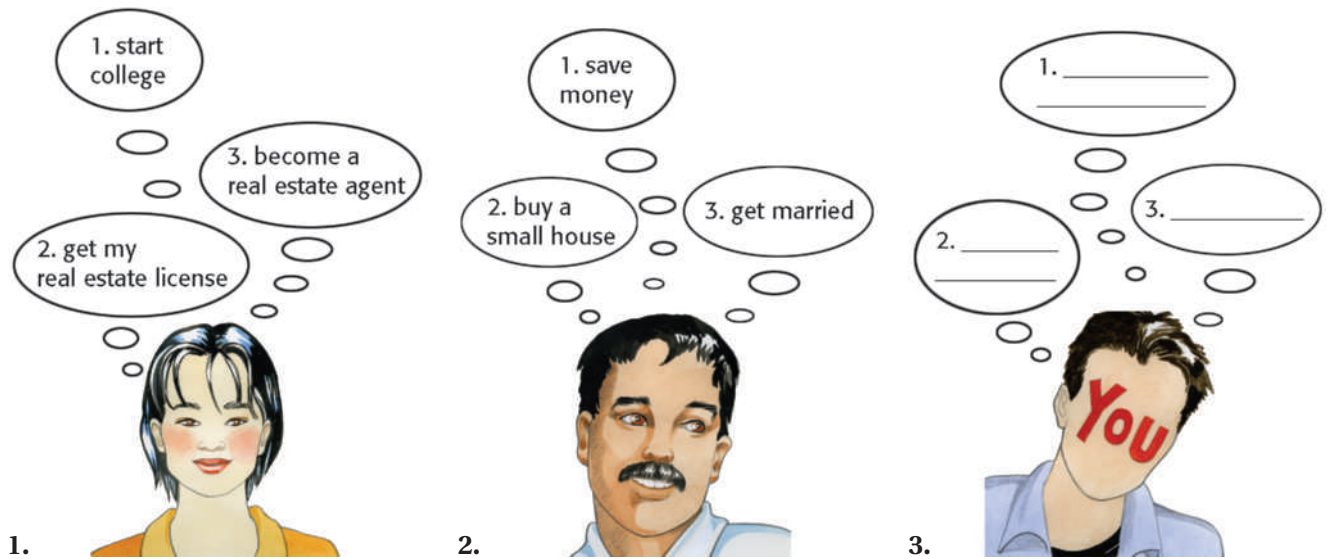
A: And after that?

B: After I go on job interviews, I hope to get a good job.

A: Well, I wish you luck.

B: Thank you.

Practice more conversations. Use the information in the pictures on the next page.



GRAMMAR CHECK

Future time clauses

Future time clauses begin with time words like *when*, *after*, *as soon as*, *before*, or *if* (future conditional). Use present tense verbs in future time clauses. In the main clause, use future tense verbs or verbs that talk about future activities, like *expect*, *intend*, *plan*, or *hope* + infinitive:

Time clause

When I find a job,

After I get a job,

As soon as I finish my resume,

Main clause

I will have more money.

I'm going to save \$100 every month.

I plan to send it out.

6 Write Complete the sentences with a future time clause.

1. When I get home from class today, _____.
2. As soon as I get up tomorrow morning, _____.
3. After I finish my English classes, _____.
4. Before I leave my house, _____.
5. When I have more time, _____.
6. After _____.

GRAMMAR CHECK

Present continuous for future

There are several ways to talk about future plans or arrangements. We can use *be going to* + a verb. We can use *plan* + an infinitive. We can also use present continuous verbs to talk about future plans when the time is stated or known.

We **are going to have** lunch at the beach tomorrow.

We **plan to have** lunch at the beach tomorrow.

We **are having** lunch at the beach tomorrow.

- 7 Listen** Listen to Erika talk about her plans to look for a job next week. Write her plans for each day. Use complete sentences and include the verbs she uses.

Monday: _____

Tuesday morning: _____

Tuesday afternoon: _____

Wednesday: _____

Thursday: _____

Next Monday: _____

- 8 Pair Practice** Work with a partner. Ask and answer questions about Erika's plans to find a job. Use present continuous verbs in your questions and answers.

Example: *Student 1:* What is Erika doing on Monday?

Student 2: On Monday, she's typing her resume.

- 9 Write** Write about your future plans. Think about things you are definitely going to do in the near future. On a piece of paper, make a list of what and when. Use the present continuous tense.

Example: *This afternoon I am meeting my job counselor for lunch.*

- 10 Teamwork Task** Work in teams of four to five. Pretend that one of your teammates is trying to find a job. Make a list of things he or she can do to try to find a job (for example, go to the job placement office, write a resume). Pretend he or she is going to do all the things on your list. Put the list in the correct order: what is he or she going to do first, second, etc. Use *be going to*, *plans to*, or present continuous in your sentences.

Homework

Interview someone who has a job. Ask what he or she did to find the job. List all the things he or she did before finding the job.



Review

1 Read and Listen Read the story. Then listen to the story.



To Buy or Not to Buy

Erika never had a credit card before she got married. Now she has two. Some of her friends are worried about that. “Be careful,” Pauline told her. “If you use your credit cards a lot, you are going to have a lot of trouble.”

Erika would like to buy a lot of things for her apartment. She plans to get new curtains for the living room windows. Then she would like to get some new sheets and pillows for the bedroom. “You should just buy things you can afford to pay for right away,” Pauline said. “My friend is having a lot of trouble because of her credit cards. She owes \$20,000. She only makes the minimum payment every month. If you only make the minimum payment, you will never get out of debt.”

Erika has decided to listen to her friends. She isn’t going to use her credit cards until she has a job. And when she gets a job, she is going to try to pay her credit card bills in full every month. If she does that, she won’t have any problems.

2 Write Answer the questions with complete sentences.



1. If you use credit cards too much, what will happen?

2. What things does Erika plan to buy?

3. If you make only the minimum payment on a credit card, what will happen? _____

4. When is Erika going to use her credit cards?

5. What is she going to do when she gets a job?

3 Critical Thinking Read the statements from the story. Write *F* for fact and *O* for opinion.

1. Erika has two credit cards. _____

2. If you use credit cards a lot, you are going to have trouble. _____

3. Erika should buy only things she can afford to pay for right away. _____

4. Pauline’s friend is having problems with her credit cards. _____

5. If Erika pays her credit card bills in full every month, she won’t have any problems. _____

4 Problem Solving Look at the chart to answer the questions.

CREDIT CARD DEBT		If you charge \$5,000 on a credit card at 18% interest rate, and make the minimum payment every month, this is how much you will pay and how long it will take to pay off your debt.	
Time	Amount Paid	(Principal + Interest)	Amount You Owe
First month	\$125	(\$50 + \$75)	\$4,950
After 2 months	\$249	(\$99 + \$150)	\$4,901
After 3 months	\$371	(\$149 + \$222)	\$4,851
After 6 months	\$731	(\$293 + \$438)	\$4,707
After 1 year	\$1,416	(\$568 + \$848)	\$4,432
After 3 years	\$3,790	(\$1,518 + \$2,272)	\$3,482
After 5 years	\$5,756	(\$2,264 + \$3,492)	\$2,736
After 10 years	\$8,234	(\$3,503 + \$4,731)	\$1,497
After 26 years	\$12,115	(\$5,000 + \$7,115)	0
Total paid for \$5,000 credit card purchase = \$12,115 (\$5,000 principal +\$7,115 interest)			

1. If Erika buys \$5,000 worth of furniture with her credit card at 18% interest, and she makes the minimum payment every month, how much will she pay the first month? _____
2. How much will she pay the first year, and how much will she still owe?

3. How much will she pay for the first five years, and how much will she still owe? _____
4. How long will it take her to pay off her credit card debt? _____

5 Best Answer Bubble the correct answers.

a b c

1. What are your plans for tomorrow? I'm _____ all afternoon.
 a) working b) plan to work c) will work
2. If she _____ to the party, she'll probably bring her dog.
 a) will come b) come c) comes
3. Your paycheck is your _____.
 a) net pay b) gross pay c) pay before taxes
4. David hopes _____ to Europe next summer.
 a) will go b) going c) to go
5. After I _____ my car, I'm going to buy a new one.
 a) sell b) will sell c) am selling
6. She expects _____ San Francisco on her next vacation.
 a) visit b) to visit c) will visit

6 Teamwork Task Work in teams of four to five. Plan a birthday party for someone you know. Talk about where and when you will have the party, who you might invite, what you need to buy, what you will do, etc. Take 10 minutes to plan your party. Then complete the sentences below about your plans.

1. We are going to _____.
2. We plan _____.
3. We want _____.
4. We expect _____.
5. We might _____.
6. We hope _____.
7. Before _____, we _____.
8. As soon as _____, we _____.
9. If _____, we _____.
10. If _____, we are going to _____.



Pronunciation Reduced infinitives

We usually reduce *to* in an infinitive following a verb. It is usually pronounced as a “t” or “ta” sound. Listen and repeat the sentences.

1. She **plans to buy** a shirt.
2. I **expect to be** on time.
3. I **hope to find** a job.
4. I **promised to come** to class.

Practice more sentences with a partner. Listen to his or her pronunciation.

I can ...			
• talk about future plans.	1	2	3
• read and interpret ads.	1	2	3
• calculate savings.	1	2	3
• make predictions.	1	2	3
• read and interpret a check stub.	1	2	3
• practice the future tense with <i>going to</i> and <i>will</i> .	1	2	3
• create a household budget.	1	2	3
• understand how to use coupons.	1	2	3
• use future real conditionals.	1	2	3
• use verbs that take infinitives.	1	2	3
• discuss steps to finding a job.	1	2	3

1 = not well 2 = OK 3 = very well

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Credit

Loans are one example of credit. Credit cards are another. If you plan to apply for a credit card, you should think about several things. First, is there an annual fee? Second, and most important, what is the interest rate? Be careful when you ask that question. You can get a credit card through many banks. They sometimes offer an introductory rate that is much lower than their regular rate. But after a short period, or if you make a late payment, they will begin to charge you

their regular, much higher, rate. Before you agree to use a credit card, find out the bank's regular rate as well as its introductory rate.

Credit can be a good thing or a bad thing. Having "good credit" helps you to buy big things like furniture, cars, or even houses that you couldn't afford to buy with cash. Very few people have enough cash to buy a house. So most people make a down payment of 5–20 percent and get a home loan, called a mortgage, to pay the rest. People often buy cars with

auto loans. They sometimes take personal loans to make other big purchases.

Credit can also be dangerous. It can lead people to buy things that they really shouldn't buy. If you decide to get a credit card, or you have one already, don't overuse it.

Credit cards can be very convenient if you use them wisely. Find a card with a low interest rate, try to pay the bill in full every month, and don't buy things you really can't afford.

What do you think?

Are credit cards mostly a good thing or a bad thing? Why? Give reasons for your opinion.



INTERNET IDEA

The best credit card

Go online to find credit card offers. Compare their interest rates. What is the lowest rate you can find? Is it the regular rate or an introductory rate?

Dear Ms. Know It All



Problem Solving: Tear Them Up?

Dear Ms. Know It All:

I think my wife has a serious problem with credit cards, and I don't know what to do about it. She has three credit cards and she owes about \$10,000! Her minimum payments are more than \$300 a month. She is only working part time right now, so she isn't able to pay more than the minimum every month. She doesn't think she has a problem, and she gets angry every time I want to talk about it. She says that everything she bought with the credit cards was important and necessary. She promises to pay off the cards when she starts working full time again.

My wife is still using the cards, and the amount of our debt is going up every month. I'm afraid it is going to destroy our marriage. What should I do?

Sincerely,

Buried Under Debt

Dear Buried Under Debt:

You are right. This problem will probably destroy your marriage. Disagreement about money is one of the leading causes of divorce in the U.S. today. Tear up her cards right now, before it is too late!

Sincerely,

Ms. Know It All

CRITICAL THINKING:

What do you think about Ms. Know It All's advice? Do you agree with her? Do you think her advice will solve the problem or make things worse? What else could Buried Under Debt do? What would you tell them to do? Write *your* own response to Buried Under Debt. Give him your best advice.

What do you think?

Do you know the warning signs of too much debt and credit card use?