



# Making the most of your money

**Money**  
 **Helper**



HM Government



# Taking the time to manage your money can make a real difference

Whatever stage of life you're at – whether you're saving into a pension for the first time, buying or renting a home, starting a family or planning to retire – there are always ways of making your money go further.

We can't cover everything in this guide, but we'll give you some hints and tips to help you along the way.

## Understand your Money

- Check out our free Budget Planner which helps you review your household spending and take control of your money.  
[moneyhelper.org.uk/budget-planner](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/budget-planner)
- Work out which debts to pay off first. This will help you clear your debts faster.  
[moneyhelper.org.uk/way-forward/bill-prioritiser](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/way-forward/bill-prioritiser)
- Get help if you're struggling with debt. Find out where to get free debt advice.  
[moneyhelper.org.uk/debt-advice-locator](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/debt-advice-locator)

## Get the money you're entitled to

- Make sure you're being paid the right amount. Check your payslip and tax code.  
[moneyhelper.org.uk/understanding-your-payslip](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/understanding-your-payslip)
- Don't miss out on help when it's available – make sure you're claiming all the benefits you're entitled to.  
[moneyhelper.org.uk/getting-the-right-entitlements](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/getting-the-right-entitlements)
- Having a baby or adopting? Find out what help is available.  
[moneyhelper.org.uk/baby-benefits](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/baby-benefits)
- Childcare costs can take up a large chunk of your family's income. Find out what help is available.  
[moneyhelper.org.uk/help-with-childcare-costs](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/help-with-childcare-costs)

## Plan for the unexpected

- Get tips on how to protect your family, your home and your possessions with the right type of insurance.  
**[moneyhelper.org.uk/insurance](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/insurance)**
- Choose who will receive your pension savings in the event of your death.  
**[moneyhelper.org.uk/dependants-in-retirement](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/dependants-in-retirement)**
- Find out why you should make a will and how to go about it.  
**[moneyhelper.org.uk/making-a-will](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/making-a-will)**
- Appoint someone you trust who can act on your behalf if you become unable to manage your own affairs.  
**[moneyhelper.org.uk/power-of-attorney](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/power-of-attorney)**
- Ending a relationship can have financial consequences – knowing your options can ease the process and lower the cost.  
**[moneyhelper.org.uk/divorce-and-money-calculator](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/divorce-and-money-calculator)**
- Scams come in all shapes and sizes. Learn how to spot the signs and avoid losing your hard-earned money.  
**[moneyhelper.org.uk/scams](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/scams)**

## Secure your future

- Thinking of how to buy your first or next home? Use this handy calculator to figure out how much you can afford.  
**[moneyhelper.org.uk/mortgage-affordability-calculator](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/mortgage-affordability-calculator)**
- Work out how much you can afford to save and find out how to set and reach your savings goal.  
**[moneyhelper.org.uk/savings-habit](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/savings-habit)**
- If investing is an option, here's how you can get started.  
**[moneyhelper.org.uk/beginners-guide-to-investing](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/beginners-guide-to-investing)**
- Make sure you're in a workplace pension.  
**[moneyhelper.org.uk/workplace-pension](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/workplace-pension)**
- Check how much you're saving and use our pension calculator to find out if it's enough.  
**[moneyhelper.org.uk/pension-calculator](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/pension-calculator)**
- Find out what your retirement options are if you're aged 50 and over. Book your Pension Wise appointment.  
**[moneyhelper.org.uk/pensionwise](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/pensionwise)**
- Sometimes we all need a professional to help us make the right choices. Find a regulated financial adviser to help with your planning.  
**[moneyhelper.org.uk/retirement-adviser-directory](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/retirement-adviser-directory)**

## **Making your money and pension choices clearer**

MoneyHelper is here to help, so you can move on with life. Here to cut through the jargon and complexity, explain what you need to do and how you can do it. Here to put you in control, with free, impartial help that's quick to find, easy to use and backed by government.

Whatever your circumstances or plans, MoneyHelper is on your side. Online and over the phone, you'll get clear money and pension guidance. We can also point you to trusted services, if you need more support.

Open to everyone, MoneyHelper is helping people to clear their debts, reduce spending and make the most of their income.

To support loved ones, plan ahead for major purchases and find out about entitlements. To build up savings and pensions, and know their options.

For money help all in one place that's free to use, just search for MoneyHelper.

**moneyhelper.org.uk**

**Making the most of your money** is one of the guides available from MoneyHelper. This publication is available in Welsh.

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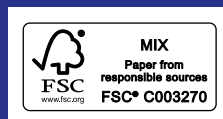
Webchat **moneyhelper.org.uk**

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\*Calls are free. To help us maintain and improve our service, we may record or monitor calls.