FINANCEFIEND | UNIT 1: BUDGETING & SAVING

Name: _____ Class/Period: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Read each FinanceFiend lesson in order. Fill in the missing key terms, amounts, and calculations as you go.

Lesson 1 of 3: Budgeting

BUDGETING — Core Concepts

1. A budget is a _____ for using money; it tracks _____, spending, and money left for _____ or other goals.

2. A budget helps prioritize _____ before _____ and make progress toward financial _____.

3. _____ is money received (job, allowance, gifts); _____ are amounts spent (food, clothing, bills).

4. Monthly example: $100 income – $90 expenses = $_____ remaining.

5. A financial _____ is something you plan to accomplish with money. For a $300 bike with $180 saved, $_____ remains; at $30/week, that is _____ weeks.

6. _____ is money owed. _____ is the cost of borrowing; _____ are additional charges. Late payments on certain debts can harm a _____ score.

7. Managing debt: spend within your _____, plan bills, make payments on _____, and have a realistic repayment plan.

BUDGETING — Methods and 50/30/20

8. Four budgeting methods: (1) _____ and _____; (2) printable budget _____; (3) _____ (such as Excel or Google Sheets); (4) budgeting _____.

9. Spreadsheets can use _____ to calculate totals; some apps can connect to accounts and track _____ automatically.

10. The 50/30/20 guideline divides income into _____% needs, _____% wants, and _____% savings. Percentages are _____, not strict requirements.

11. For $2,000 monthly income: needs = $_____; wants = $_____; savings = $_____.

12. Needs include housing, utilities, food, transportation, insurance, and basic _____. Wants include hobbies, dining out, shopping, and _____.

13. Monthly _____-home pay is earnings after taxes and deductions. Needs target = income × _____; wants = income × _____; savings = income × _____.

BUDGETING — Seven Steps

14. 1. Know your _____: total expected monthly income, including take-home pay.

15. 2. Calculate your _____ budget (monthly income × 0.50).

16. 3. Calculate your _____ budget (monthly income × 0.30).

17. 4. Calculate your _____ budget (monthly income × 0.20).

18. 5. Record _____ spending from receipts, bank statements, or banking apps; categorize each transaction.

19. 6. Compare planned with actual: Budget balance = _____ budget – _____ spending.

20. A _____ balance means under budget; _____ means exactly on budget; _____ means over budget. Example: $600 planned – $650 spent = $_____.

21. 7. _____ your budget: review other categories, reduce _____ expenses, consider more income, or direct extra money to goals.

Lesson 2 of 3: Reducing Expenses

REDUCING EXPENSES — Unit Pricing
22. _____ price is the cost per ounce, pound, roll, or item. Formula: Unit price = _____ price ÷ number of _____.
23. Compare products using the _____ units (e.g., ounces with ounces). Unit prices often appear on store _____ labels.
24. Toilet paper A: $5.99 for 12 rolls ≈ $_____/roll. B: $7.99 for 18 rolls ≈ $_____/roll. Better unit value: _____.
25. A lower _____ price does not always mean a lower _____ price. Buy a quantity you will actually _____.

Lesson 3 of 3: Saving Money

SAVING MONEY — Strategies and Expenses

26. Saving means setting aside part of your _____ instead of spending it immediately. It helps with emergencies and long-term _____.

27. Five methods: automatic _____; saving spare _____; adding savings to a _____; purchase _____-up programs; personal savings _____.

28. _____ expenses are predictable (phone bills, gifts, registration); _____ expenses arise unexpectedly (repairs, medical bills).

29. Holiday gifts example: $550 goal over 11 months → $_____ per month. Savings per period = total _____ ÷ number of periods.

30. Seven planned-expense steps: (1) set a _____; (2) choose a _____; (3) calculate the savings _____; (4) keep money _____; (5) _____ savings; (6) adjust your _____; (7) stay _____.

SAVING MONEY — Emergency Funds

31. An _____ fund is money reserved for unexpected necessary costs and financial difficulties, reducing reliance on _____ or loans.

32. Long-term guideline: _____ to _____ months of essential expenses, including housing, groceries, utilities, transportation, and insurance—not usually entertainment.

33. At $2,000 essential expenses/month: 3-month target = $_____; 6-month target = $_____. Build gradually.

34. Under 50/30/20, the _____% category may fund emergencies and other savings goals; emergency savings may be prioritized.

SAVING MONEY — Pay Yourself First

35. “Pay yourself _____” means saving as soon as income arrives, before spending what remains. This can be done through _____ transfers.

36. Pay frequencies and yearly counts: weekly _____; biweekly _____; semi-monthly _____; monthly _____.

37. For a $624 one-year laptop goal: weekly $_____; biweekly $_____; semi-monthly $_____; monthly $_____ per paycheck.

38. For a $1,300 one-year vacation goal with 26 biweekly paychecks, save $_____ each paycheck.