



The Money Advice Service is independent and set up by government to help people make the most of their money by giving free, impartial money advice to everyone across the UK – online and over the phone.

**Making the most of your money** is one of the guides available from the Money Advice Service. To see our full range of guides, visit [moneyadvice.org.uk](http://moneyadvice.org.uk)

Money Advice Line **0800 137 7777\***

Typetalk **1800 1 0300 500 5000**

If you would like this guide in Braille, large print or audio format please contact us on the above numbers.

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

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# Making the most of your money



# 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.



## Take control now

- Check out our free Budget planner which helps you analyse your household spending and take control of your money.  
[moneyadvice.service.org.uk/budgetplanner](https://moneyadvice.service.org.uk/budgetplanner)
- Be a savvy money manager and find ways to save hundreds of pounds each year on energy and household bills.  
[moneyadvice.service.org.uk/bills](https://moneyadvice.service.org.uk/bills)
- Work out which debts to pay off first. This will help you clear your debts faster.  
[moneyadvice.service.org.uk/how-to-prioritise-debts](https://moneyadvice.service.org.uk/how-to-prioritise-debts)
- Get help if you are struggling with debt. Find out where to get free debt advice.  
[moneyadvice.service.org.uk/debt](https://moneyadvice.service.org.uk/debt)

## Get the money you're entitled to

- Make sure you're being paid the right amount. Check your pay slip and tax code.  
[moneyadvice.service.org.uk/understanding-your-payslip](https://moneyadvice.service.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  
[moneyadvice.service.org.uk/entitlements](https://moneyadvice.service.org.uk/entitlements)
- Having a baby or adopting? Find out what help is available.  
[moneyadvice.service.org.uk/babybenefits](https://moneyadvice.service.org.uk/babybenefits)
- Children can be as costly as they are cute! Get help with childcare costs.  
[moneyadvice.service.org.uk/help-with-childcare-costs](https://moneyadvice.service.org.uk/help-with-childcare-costs)

## Plan for the unexpected

- Get useful tips on how to protect your family, your home and your possessions with the right type of insurance.  
[moneyadvice.service.org.uk/types-of-insurance](https://moneyadvice.service.org.uk/types-of-insurance)
- Choose who will receive your pension savings in the event of your death.  
[moneyadvice.service.org.uk/dependants-in-retirement](https://moneyadvice.service.org.uk/dependants-in-retirement)
- Find out why you should make a will and how to go about it.  
[moneyadvice.service.org.uk/why-make-a-will](https://moneyadvice.service.org.uk/why-make-a-will)
- Appoint someone you trust who can act on your behalf if you become unable to manage your own affairs.  
[moneyadvice.service.org.uk/power-of-attorney](https://moneyadvice.service.org.uk/power-of-attorney)
- Ending a relationship can have financial consequences – knowing your options can ease the process and lower the cost.  
[moneyadvice.service.org.uk/divorce-calculator](https://moneyadvice.service.org.uk/divorce-calculator)
- Scams come in all shapes and sizes. Learn how to spot the signs and avoid losing your hard earned money.  
[moneyadvice.service.org.uk/scams](https://moneyadvice.service.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.  
[moneyadvice.service.org.uk/affordabilitycalc](https://moneyadvice.service.org.uk/affordabilitycalc)
- Work out how much you can afford to save and find out how to set and reach your savings goal.  
[moneyadvice.service.org.uk/save-regularly](https://moneyadvice.service.org.uk/save-regularly)
- If investing is an option, here's how you can get started.  
[moneyadvice.service.org.uk/beginners-investing](https://moneyadvice.service.org.uk/beginners-investing)
- Make sure you're in a workplace pension.  
[moneyadvice.service.org.uk/automatic-enrolment](https://moneyadvice.service.org.uk/automatic-enrolment)
- Check how much you're saving and use our pension calculator to find out if it's enough.  
[moneyadvice.service.org.uk/pensioncalculator](https://moneyadvice.service.org.uk/pensioncalculator)
- Find out what your retirement options are as well as traps to avoid. Book your Pension Wise appointment.  
[moneyadvice.service.org.uk/retirement-income-options](https://moneyadvice.service.org.uk/retirement-income-options)  
[pensionwise.gov.uk](https://pensionwise.gov.uk)
- Sometimes we all need a professional to help us make the right choices. Find a regulated financial adviser to help with your planning.  
[moneyadvice.service.org.uk/directory](https://moneyadvice.service.org.uk/directory)