

What does your Credit Score Mean?

Excellent Credit

- Credit score above 800
- Excellent credit risk
- Long credit history
- Multiple established credit and loan accounts
- No negative public records
- Qualifies you for the best deals

Very Good Credit

- Credit score between 750 and 800
- Very low credit risk
- Credit accounts paid on time each month
- Qualifies you for some of the lowest rates

Good Credit

- Credit score between 700 and 750
- Low credit risk
- May have had late payments in the past
- All accounts are currently paid on time
- Standard amount of credit card debt
- Qualifies you for competitive interest rates and terms

CREDIT SCORE - continued on side 2

PROTECT YOURSELF

Here are some tips to help you keep your money safe and your identity, too:

Never respond to any email that requests personal information, account numbers, PINs or passwords. The same goes for phone calls from anyone claiming to be from “your bank” or “the bank” — remember that your bank already HAS your account and personal information, so they don’t need to call or email you to ask for it!

Never click on a link in an email that claims to be from your bank,



the FDIC, the Federal Reserve or the IRS. Federal agencies don’t typically contact consumers by email anyway. If you really need to contact any of these agencies, find their phone number in your directory, or look up the website address and type it in yourself. Emailed links could take you to a “spoofed” or faked website that *seems* to be the real thing, but is really a clever fake.

Look up phone numbers yourself before calling, to verify that a caller is **really** from the cable, gas or electric company, your bank, or a collection service that claims to be calling on behalf of a creditor. Call your creditor yourself, us-

PROTECT YOURSELF - continued on side 2

Money Habits Makeover

Everyone has things they do habitually: showering, brushing teeth, and being courteous, kind and helpful are some of the good habits that make our lives more pleasant and less stressful.

You may know somebody who hasn’t developed these basic personal grooming and behavior habits, and you may find them rather unpleasant to be around.

As you can see, habits may be things we DO or things we do NOT do. The good habits we practice, or the ones we haven’t yet learned to do regularly, can make a big difference in the quality of our daily lives, and even on the way others treat us.



Money habits are no different. You either have good money habits, or you don’t. And often because of the money habits you cultivate, you are either successful, financially comfortable and prepared to spend what you earn on those you love and causes you believe in, or you aren’t.

CHECKLIST

Take a look at your money habits and take an inventory of the good money habits you have developed so far, and which ones you have yet to work on. And keep in mind that if you are a parent or a mentor, you are modeling and teaching money habits

that can help your children become independent, generous and responsible. Or not.

You do acknowledge that money plays an important role in life... or you don’t. (*If you don’t, then you’re probably operating under some limiting beliefs.*)

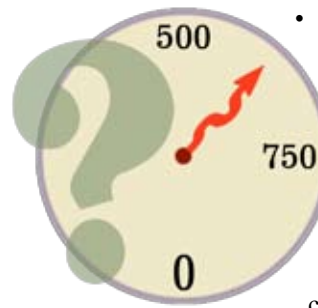
You do put a portion of every dollar you earn or make in a savings account for your ‘just in case’ situations... or you don’t.

You do invest a portion of every dollar into an asset that will immediately or eventually produce some type of passive income for you... or you don’t.

You do keep track of what money is coming in and what’s going out... or you don’t.

You do keep a budget and re-evaluate every three months... or you don’t.

MONEY HABITS - continued on side 2



- May have too many applications for new credit
 - Qualifies you for decent rates, but not the best available
- Bad Credit**
- Credit score between 600 and 650
 - High credit risk
 - May have of high amounts of credit card debt
 - May have late payments, collections, or bankruptcy records
 - Difficult to be approved for standard credit products

MONEY HABITS - continued from side 1

- You do separate your emotions from money... or you don't.
- You do pay your bills on time... or you don't. *(Remember that online banking with free BillPay makes this a breeze because you can schedule payments to be sent weekly or monthly or however suits your needs, automatically!)*
- You do spend less money than you have coming in each month... or you don't.
- You do take time to educate yourself in the language of money... or you don't.
- You do pay off your credit card bills each month... or you don't.
- You do spend your money thoughtfully... or you don't *(meaning you spend impulsively).*

Maybe you see that you have a way to go before you can breathe easy and live less stressfully because you have achieved financial freedom, or maybe your great money habits already leave you free to enjoy a satisfying life and even help others. At the very least, see if there is one habit you don't yet do and make it one you always do. One day, one week, one month at a time, you can start shifting your money situation toward the positive, celebrate each little success and actually look forward to measuring your progress!



Serving Eastern Oklahoma County since 1914

CREDIT SCORE - continued from side 1

Fair Credit

- Credit score between 650 and 700
- Moderate credit risk
- May have older negative public records
- May have higher credit card debt balances



Very Bad Credit

- Credit score below 600
- Very high credit risk
- Late payments, collection accounts, or public records
- Excessive applications for new credit
- Very high amounts of credit card debt
- Very difficult to be approved for new credit without a co-signer or down payment



No Credit

- No credit score
- Considered a high credit risk by lenders
- Have not been using credit cards and loans regularly
- May be trying to open a first credit account
- Better than having very bad credit
- Qualifies you to be approved for accounts tailored to people with no credit or bad credit

PROTECT YOURSELF - continued from side 1

ing the number on your statement, before discussing your account. Don't use a number just because it was offered "for your convenience" by a caller.



that could be found in a dictionary, birthdates or parts of ID numbers for passwords. And, of course, don't write your PIN on your debit card.

Check your bank statement every month, or better still, check transactions online frequently. Record debit card transactions and keep receipts to compare to your statement. Report questionable transactions to your bank immediately. You can't detect fraud if you aren't keeping an eye out for it.

Use Direct Deposit for incoming checks, and use a postal service drop box for outgoing mail.

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