

Adult Ready Preview Night

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How much of your paycheck is still yours to direct?

My goal: car / moving out / education or training / savings / other: _____

1 Your paycheck

Weekly example	Amount
40 hours × \$15/hour gross pay	\$_____
Social Security / Medicare	\$37.20 / \$8.70
Federal withholding assumed / Tennessee wage tax	\$40.00 / \$0.00
Take-home pay	\$_____

No other deductions modeled. Federal withholding is an assumption. Actual pay varies. $\$514.10 \times 52 \div 12 = \$2,227.77$ average monthly take-home pay; use about \$2,230 tonight. Actual pay dates matter.

Disposable income means income after taxes. Money remaining after expenses still may need to cover other needs and goals.

Two needs my pay must cover: _____ and _____

2 Your car and your choices

Monthly example	Financed car	Cash-owned car
Payment	\$350	\$0
Insurance	\$200	\$110
Fuel	\$120	\$120
Maintenance and repair savings	\$75	\$125
Total	\$_____	\$_____

Illustrative premiums with different coverage: financed example includes liability, comprehensive and collision; cash-owned example uses liability-only. Liability does not cover your own car's damage. Cash buying needs purchase money up front.

Monthly difference: \$_____ Annual difference: \$_____

One goal I would give that difference

Moving out and monthly reality

Use the same \$2,230 monthly take-home reference. The amounts below are a fictional share of a household, not local rental estimates.

Monthly household share	Amount
Rent	\$700
Utilities and internet	\$150
Groceries and household supplies	\$250
Renters insurance	\$20
Total	\$ _____

What remains	Financed car	Cash-owned car
Monthly income	\$2,230	\$2,230
Car allocation	-\$745	-\$355
Household allocation	-\$1,120	-\$1,120
Money remaining	\$ _____	\$ _____

This is an incomplete budget. Phone, healthcare, clothing, other obligations, and savings still need consideration. Remaining money is not automatically spending money.

One missing monthly expense I would investigate

Move-in cash is another part of the plan

First month's rent share \$700 + assumed deposit \$700 + setup/moving \$300 = \$1,700. Other charges may apply. The first month's rent appears in both views; do not count it twice in a combined plan.

A question to discuss before moving out

Scams online promises and gambling

A social-media image or winning screenshot does not show the full financial picture. Ask who benefits if you sign up, pay, or keep playing.

Offer A

"Send \$100 today. Guaranteed \$1,000 tomorrow."

Warning sign and safer response

Offer B

"Buy my \$299 secret system. Only two spots left."

What would you check before paying

A countdown does not prove fraud, but it is a reason to pause. Check the actual product, total cost, seller, refund terms, and independent evidence.

Gambling and a goal

Hypothetical net loss of $\$25/\text{week} \times 52 \text{ weeks} = \$\underline{\hspace{2cm}}/\text{year}$. This means losses after winnings, not the amount wagered. It is an illustration, not a prediction.

A goal that amount could support

Chasing losses means risking more to try to win back what you lost. Gambling cannot provide a dependable paycheck. Stop and seek support if activity is hard to control, hidden, or taking money needed for essentials.

A protective action

Circle one: pause before paying / verify independently / keep login codes private / talk to someone I trust / seek support

Suspected scam: contact your bank or payment provider promptly through a trusted channel and report at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/ReportFraud). Avoid paying strangers who promise recovery.

Gambling support: call or text Tennessee REDLINE 800-889-9789 for free, confidential treatment referrals. You can ask for help privately.

Education with a destination

Explore a profession, check its qualifications, compare suitable training routes, and investigate funding before defaulting to loans. A four-year program may fit some careers; technical school, community college, apprenticeships, or employer training may fit others.

One profession I want to explore

One question about its required education or training

One funding option or scholarship question to investigate

Compare total costs after grants and scholarships. Loans finance a cost; they do not reduce the price. Check aid conditions and renewal rules.

Same income and costs for comparison	Remaining
Cash car and shared housing	\$755
After a hypothetical \$200 loan payment	\$ _____
Without that loan payment	\$755

\$200/month = \$2,400/year potentially available for other goals. Other expenses remain. This isolates a payment's effect, not career earnings. Debt-free education still needs a funding plan.

My seven-day action

One small action I will take

I will do it on: _____ Someone who can support me: _____

When my income grows, I want some of the increase to support: _____

Resources to revisit

IRS payroll rates: irs.gov/taxtopics/tc751

Insurance: content.naic.org/insurance-topics/auto-insurance

Aid offers: studentaid.gov/articles/evaluating-financial-aid-offers/

Scams: consumer.ftc.gov/articles/investment-scams

Gambling referrals: tn.gov/behavioral-health/substance-abuse-services/treatment/problem-gambling-programs.html