

Week 5 Finances Worksheet

Getting married? Ask your partner these questions about money

Before you tie the knot, make sure you're on the same page about money

Differences over finances is one of the most common issues that lead couples to split up — so make sure you and your future spouse are on the same page about money using this premarital checklist for financial harmony.

Differences over finances are one of the most common issues that lead couples to split up. But money-related matters don't need to become major issues if you both go into your marriage with your eyes wide open. And if you keep those lines of communication clear.

What assets and accounts are you each bringing into the marriage?

What are your debts (including credit cards)?

What are your credit scores?

Are there any bankruptcies or other negative financial events in your past?

Do you want to create a prenuptial agreement?

Compare expectations and spending habits

Do you want to combine your finances, or keep separate accounts?

Are you spenders or savers?

How do you spend discretionary money?

What things do you consider to be "essential" vs. "non-essential"?

What is an acceptable monthly amount to spend on non-essentials?

What would you like to do with extra cash (a work bonus or cash wedding gifts, for example)?

How will you decide if you don't agree, and will the decision create tension between the two of you?

What relationships have you already established with financial professionals?

Define your roles

How important is it to you to manage the finances?

Who will build and monitor the budget?

Who will pay the bills?

Who does the taxes?

Agree on your future plans

What major purchases should we make within the next two years?

What is your timeframe for starting a family?

When we have a family, will we both continue to work?

How much should we contribute annually to retirement savings, 401(k)s and/or IRAs?

What are our retirement goals?