

MY CRAZY FIFO LIFE

In this small group activity, you will be assigned to a “family” (sorry, but just like in the real world, you can’t pick your family). Your family will need to prepare a monthly budget based on last month’s financial information – which has been provided to you.



STEP 1: Review Budget Cards

Review all of the financial information for last month that you were provided on your family. Use this information as a starting point for your budget.

STEP 2: Sort Financial Cards

Divide up the budget cards into the four categories below:

- INCOME
- SAVINGS
- VARIABLE EXPENSES
- FIXED EXPENSES

STEP 3: Start Your Budget

Expected Column: Now that you have all the items separated out, prepare your budget on a post-it pad, making sure to leave room for all 3 columns (EXPECTED, ACTUAL and VARIANCE):

- EXPECTED (this is column where you will write the amounts from the budget cards)
- Total the expected column to calculate your expected cash surplus or shortage (Income – Savings – Variable Expenses – Fixed Expenses)

	EXPECTED	ACTUAL
<u>INCOME</u>		
Item 1	\$	\$
Item 2	\$	\$
Total Income	\$	\$
<u>SAVINGS</u>		
Item 1	\$	\$
Item 2	\$	\$
Total Savings	\$	\$
<u>VARIABLE EXPENSES</u>		
Item 1	\$	\$
Item 2	\$	\$
Total Variable Expenses	\$	\$
<u>FIXED EXPENSES</u>		
Item 1	\$	\$
Item 2	\$	\$
Total Fixed Expenses	\$	\$
CASH SURPLUS OR SHORTAGE		

STEP 4: Finish Budget

Actual Column: Your family will draw some EVENT cards to see how things actually turned out during the month. Based on this information, you will calculate the amounts in the actual column.

- ACTUAL (you will draw some EVENT cards, which will change how some expenses turn out)
- Total the actual column to calculate your actual cash surplus or shortage (Income – Savings – Variable Expenses – Fixed Expenses)

STEP 5: Answer the Questions on the Back

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Reflection Questions

(2 sentence minimum per question)

1. How is your family doing financially? Are they living comfortably?
2. What areas might they be able to cut back on if they needed to?
3. What types of EVENTS did you have happen to your family?
4. How did your family deal with these events? How did you balance the actual budget?
5. Did your family have any disagreements on how to deal with these events? How did you come to an agreement?

