

Upper Intermediate – Making A Budget And Sticking To It

A. Kayla's saving up for a new phone. She gets a monthly allowance of £50 and earns £80 a month from babysitting for her neighbour. Her parents pay for her food at school, and she doesn't have to pay for transport to get there, as she rides her bike, but she has a phone contract that's £20 a month. Kayla loves fashion, and she always spends the rest of her allowance on new clothes and shoes. In addition, she goes out with her friends a lot, spending around £15 every weekend. The phone she wants costs £205.

Help Kayla make a budget and calculate how long it may take her to buy the phone she wants.

B. Michael is a photography student. He wants to buy a new camera, which is £280. He gets a monthly allowance of £120, out of which he has to pay for his school meals, which cost £10 a week, and a monthly bus pass to school, which costs £25. He also has to buy any new clothes and pay for his £15 monthly photography club membership. Michael always buys his clothes second-hand, and rarely spends more than £10 a month. He usually goes to the cinema once a week and it costs £5 a ticket, (plus popcorn).

Help Michael make a budget and calculate how long it may take him to buy the camera he wants.

C. Liam is planning a weekend trip to Berlin with his friends to celebrate their graduation. It's going to cost £70 for a round-trip flight, £40 for the accommodation, and he wants to take £100 spending money. Liam gets a monthly allowance of £70 and he earns £35 every Saturday working in a supermarket. He always takes sandwiches to school, so he doesn't pay for lunches, but he always buys a coffee at lunchtime, which costs £2. Liam loves snowboarding and every two weeks he goes to a dry ski slope, which costs £12 a session. He buys snowboarding clothes and kit and usually spends £40 a month on this. He also often spends around £15 a month on his streaming accounts.

Help Liam make a budget and calculate how long it may take him to save up for his trip.

Reflection Point

Making a budget has many benefits: it makes you aware of how you spend money and helps you both adapt your spending to your income and have enough money for mid- and long-term goals.