

On Your Own, Month by Month

If you're on your own, bringing home your own bacon each month, your budget is a little more complicated. You need to look at your fixed expenses, like rent, car payments, and utilities, as well as the variable expenses like groceries, entertainment, and gas. It is wise to look at the difference between your needs and your wants and make sure that the needs are a higher priority on your budget than your wants - even when you want something REALLY bad. Just fill in the blanks below, and you have a budget! You may need to adjust a few things the first month or two, but just keep watching it and relax knowing that your needs are met, month after month.

MONTHLY INCOME

FIXED EXPENSES

Rent

Utilities

(gas, electric, water, trash)

Cable/Internet

Car Payment

Insurance

License/maintenance (oil changes)

(Look at last year's expenses, then divide by 12. This is going into savings for when you need it.)

Parking

Cell Phone

VARIABLE EXPENSES

-Food

-Entertainment

-Music, Magazines, Books

-Gifts

-School Obligations

-Personal Care

-Clothing

-Coffee

What's Left?

If there's anything left in the category, send it to savings. Some months it is easier to stick to a budget than others (like your boyfriend's birthday month). You will be happy to find an extra \$5.00 or \$10.00 in savings when you need it.

