Pennsylvania
Department of Education

Personal Finance Glossary: Grades K to 2

The terms in this glossary relate to the Academic Standards for Personal Finance in the Kindergarten to Grade 2 grade band. The definitions illustrate how to explain these concepts in an age-appropriate manner. Click a letter to navigate to that section of the glossary.

A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J • K • L • M • N • O • P • R • S • T • U • W

A

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Accident: Something that happens by mistake and may cause harm or loss

Account: A place where money is kept safe at a bank or credit union

Advantage: Something about a choice that helps or is good

Attitude: The way a person thinks or feels about something, such as their money choices

Avoid: To stay away from something or not take part in an activity

B

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Balance: The amount of money in an account after spending or adding money

Bank: A business that keeps people's money safe and helps with saving or borrowing

Belongings: The things a person owns

Borrow: Take something for a time and give it back later

Borrower: A person who borrows money or things and must return or repay them

Borrowing: Using something that belongs to someone else and returning it later

Budget: A plan for how money will be saved and spent

Business: A place that makes or sells goods or services to earn money

Buy: To get something by paying money for it

C

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Career: The work a person does for many years

Cash: Paper money and coins used to pay for things

Caution: Being careful to avoid danger or problems

Chance: When something may or may not happen

Charity: Giving money, time, or things to help others

Choice: The act of picking between two or more options

Coin: A small, round piece of metal used as money

Consequence: What happens after a person makes a choice

Contribution: Something given, such as money or time, to help others or reach a goal

Credit union: A place like a bank where members keep money safe and help one another

D

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Deposit: Money that is put into a bank account

Disadvantage: Something about a choice that does not help or is bad

Donate: To give money or items to help others

E

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Earn: To get money in exchange for work

Earnings: Money received for doing work

Education: Learning new things at school or through life experiences

Entrepreneur: Someone who starts a business

Entrepreneurship: The act of starting and running a business

Expenses: Things that cost money, such as food or clothes

F

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Financial institution: A place, like a bank or credit union, that helps people manage money

Future: What comes after today

G

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Gift: Something given to another person

Goal: Something a person wants to reach or achieve

H

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Household: The people who live together in a home and share responsibilities

I

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Identity theft: When someone steals another person's personal information

Income: Money received from work or other sources

Influence: Something that can affect choices, such as how money is spent or saved

J

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Job: Work a person does to earn money

K

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Knowledge: Facts and ideas a person has learned

L

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Limited: When there is only a small amount of something, such as money or time

Loan: Money that is borrowed and must be paid back later

M

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Money: What people use to buy goods and services

N

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Needs: Things people must have to live, such as food, water, clothing, and shelter

O

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Ownership: When an item belongs to a person

P

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Personal information: Important details about a person, such as name, address, or birthday

Piggy bank: A small container used to save coins or money

Plan: A set of steps to reach a goal

Privacy: The right to keep personal information safe and not shared without permission

Property: Something that belongs to a person, such as a toy, house, or car

R

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Reduce: To lower the chance of something happening

Resources: Things that people use to meet needs or wants, such as time, money, or materials

Responsibility: Taking care of tasks and doing what is expected

Return: Giving back something that was borrowed

Risk: The chance that something bad may happen

S

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Safe: Free from harm or danger

Safety: Being safe and protected

Save: To keep money to use later instead of spending it now

Security: Being protected from harm or loss

Share: To let others use or have part of something

Short-term: Lasting for a short time or happening soon

Skill: The ability to do something well

Spend: To use money to buy goods or services

Spending: The act of using money to buy things

Steps: Small actions taken to reach a goal

T

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Trade-off: Giving up one thing to get something else

Trust: Belief that someone or something is honest and reliable

U

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Unsafe: Not safe; able to cause harm or danger

W

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Wallet: A small case used to hold money and cards

Wants: Things people would like to have but do not need to live

Withdraw: To take money out of a bank account

Work: An activity people do to earn money or help others