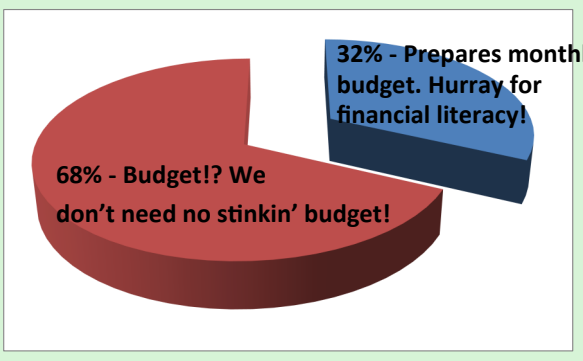
MoneyLend.net's

Guide to Financial Literacy

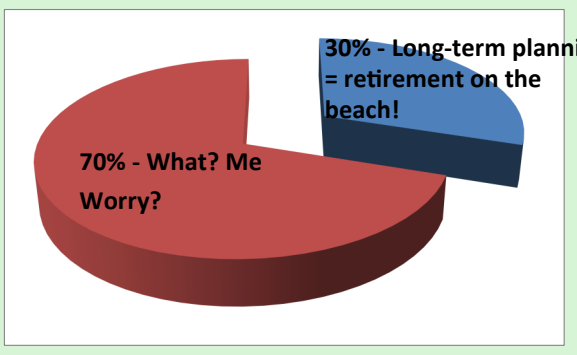
How many of us are financially literate? Not as many as you would think!

Only about a third of Americans are considered "financially literate."

32% prepare a detailed household budget ever month



30% prepare a long-term financial plan with savings and investment



Eight easy steps to financial literacy

1. ***Keep a money diary.*** Get a pocket-sized notebook, and for three months, write down every cent you spend, no matter how insignificant.
2. ***Don't overestimate simple savings tactics.*** Bank programs that put spare change into a savings account won't be enough to fund your retirement.
3. ***Due diligence before borrowing.*** Don't jump at the first lender willing to write a check. Compare terms using an online portal such as MoneyLend.net.
4. ***Understand your expenses before borrowing.*** Before applying for a loan, take time to understand your monthly expenses and make cutbacks if possible.
5. ***Understand your debt***. Are you still paying credit card bills for things you don't even remember enjoying? Understand the details of each bill.
6. ***Budgeting***. It goes without saying that budgeting is the first step towards financial literacy. It doesn't have to be hard, and can be something as simple as a spreadsheet.
7. ***Know the difference between investing and saving – but do both***. You save to have an emergency fund or to reach a goal; you invest to grow wealth.
8. ***Understand your credit rating***. Financial literacy means understanding yourself, and understanding what others know (or think they know) about you.

You don't need a DEGREE IN FINANCE to take control of your bank account!

Anybody can be financially literate.

What does it mean?

What kind of person is financially literate? It's not just wonky college professors and bow-tied accountants. It's people from all walks of life, all levels of education, and all ages.

Financially literate families are more likely to have achieved, or are working to achieve, certain goals. Have you taken steps to prepare?

- $ Only 45% of individuals surveyed have a "rainy day" fund with three months' worth of expenses.
- $ 47% of respondents said they would not be able to handle an emergency expense of $400, or would have to cover it by borrowing.
- $ According to the GAO, 29% of all households with members 55 or older have no retirement savings and no traditional pension plan.

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