



MAKING CENTS

FOR TEENS

An Offer You Can't Pass Up?

As you get older, you may receive direct mail offers for music or movie club memberships and credit cards. Before jumping in, read the fine print to know what you're really getting.

Music and Movie Clubs

Music or movie club memberships may be a good deal if you understand the agreement fully. Typically, the offer is either 12 CDs for the price of one or 12 CDs free when you buy five at regular price. Movie offers are similar. Once you've fulfilled the agreement, you may need to return a card refusing each

monthly offer. If you don't, you will get and be charged for the new CD or DVD. There are two ways around this, however.

Quit. Write to the company asking to cancel your membership. The major club companies allow you to drop out and rejoin later.

Change to "positive option." Call the company and ask to be put on order-only status. This means the company will no longer assume that you want the current promotion; you have to ask for it.

Credit Cards

Credit cards can be a good financial tool, but be careful when choosing one. You don't have to take the first offer that comes along, and don't be lured by teaser rates. Pay attention to the terms of the card, including annual fees, late payment fees, the rate after the introductory offer and the grace period. Compare these details and then choose the card that best meets your needs.

Keep Your Account in Check

Balancing your checkbook probably isn't the first thing you want to do when you have a spare minute. But keeping track of your checking account can help you avoid overdrawing it or bouncing a check.

If you write a check, withdraw money from an ATM or use your debit card for more than the amount in your checking account, you overdraw your account. When you bounce a check, the merchant you wrote the check to could charge you a returned check fee. You might also face other overdraft fees. And some merchants won't accept a check from you again if one bounces.



Simple Management

Keeping your account up to speed can help you avoid the embarrassment and extra costs:

- Keep your account register updated. Record all checks when you write them, as well as other transactions that you make.
- Record all ATM withdrawals and fees, debit card purchases and online payments.
- Compare your account register to your statement each month or check it online 24/7 with North Shore's free Online Banking to make sure all of your transactions are accounted for. Sometimes mistakes happen. If you overdraw your account, deposit money into your account as soon as possible to cover the overdraft amount and fees.



Money Trivia Mania

1. What is the national motto that appears on all currency?
 - a. In God We Trust
 - b. E Pluribus Unum
 - c. Annuit Coeptis
2. The average life span of a \$1 bill is:
 - a. 22 months
 - b. 5 years
 - c. 8.5 years
3. What is the largest bill in circulation?
 - a. \$100 bill
 - b. \$1,000 bill
 - c. \$10,000 bill
4. How many coins did the U.S. Mint produce in 2003?
 - a. 100 million
 - b. 1 billion
 - c. 12 billion
5. What image was found on the quarter in the late 18th and early 19th centuries before it was replaced by George Washington's picture?
 - a. Liberty Bell
 - b. Lady Liberty
 - c. Abraham Lincoln

Answers: 1) a. 2) a. 3) a. 4) c. 5) b