The AhaBulb Party Game

STUFF EVERY TEEN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT MONEY

How to play (30 seconds)

1. The reader reads a card and its three answers out loud.
2. Everyone says "One, two, three, Goldilocks!" and holds up 1, 2, or 3 fingers.
3. The reader flips the card and reads the answer and the Why.
4. Everyone who was right takes a point.
5. The reader reads the joke with a straight face. Anyone laughs or groans? The reader takes a point. Nobody got it right? The reader takes a point.
6. Pass the deck left. Most points when the points run out wins.

What you need

These cards and the point tokens on the last two pages. No tokens? Use coins, buttons, pebbles, or marshmallows. 3 to 10 players, ages 8 and up.

Expert rule: Bet It

Before the reader flips the card, you may put one of your points on your answer. Right: take your normal point plus one extra. Wrong: your bet goes back to the pile. That's it.

Printing

Print single-sided, on cardstock if you have it. Cut on the dashed lines. Each card is a 3.5 x 5 inch index card. The answer half is upside down on purpose, so the table can't peek.

Cards 1 to 50 of 106. More cards and the free daily online game at sesk.info. Built 2026-10-14.

MONEY

At a new job, what does Form W-4 tell your employer?

- **A** How much federal income tax to withhold from your pay
- **B** Whether you are legally allowed to work in the US
- **C** How many dollars per hour you will be paid

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A How much federal income tax to withhold from your pay

WHY The W-4 is how you tell your employer how much tax to take out of each paycheck. Work eligibility is the I-9, and your pay rate comes from your employer.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why is pretax income nasty? Because it's gross.

SESK.INFO #5881

MONEY

After you are hired, how long does an employer have to finish its part of Form I-9?

- **A** 30 days
- **B** Three business days
- **C** By the end of the first pay period

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Three business days

WHY Form I-9 shows you can legally work in the US. You fill in your part at the time of hire, and the employer checks your documents and finishes Section 2 within three business days.

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you call a trial balance that does not balance? A late night.

SESK.INFO #5882

MONEY

On Form I-9, which part do you, the new employee, fill out at the time of hire?

- **A** Section 2, Employer Review and Verification
- **B** Supplement B, Reverification and Rehire
- **C** Section 1, Employee Information

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Section 1, Employee Information

WHY You complete Section 1 and sign it when you are hired. Then you show the employer documents proving your identity and permission to work, and the employer completes Section 2.

STRAIGHT FACE
Did you hear about the CPA who became a chef? It wasn't long before he was cooking the books!

SESK.INFO #5883

MONEY

What is the pay you actually take home after taxes and deductions called?

- **A** Net pay
- **B** Gross pay
- **C** Base pay

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Net pay

WHY Gross pay is the amount before taxes come out. Net pay is what is left after taxes and other deductions.

STRAIGHT FACE
A successful tennis player has a lot of net income.

SESK.INFO #5884

MONEY

FICA taxes on your paycheck fund which two programs?

A Medicare and unemployment pay

B Social Security and Medicare

C Social Security and student aid

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #5885

B Social Security and Medicare

WHY FICA stands for the Federal Insurance Contributions Act. Its taxes are the Social Security tax and the Medicare tax, and both come out of most paychecks.

STRAIGHT FACE
Income tax is Uncle Sam's version of "Truth or Consequences."

MONEY

What percent of your wages does an employee pay for Social Security tax?

A 1.45 percent

B 12.4 percent

C 6.2 percent

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #5886

C 6.2 percent

WHY Employees pay 6.2 percent and employers pay a matching 6.2 percent. Together that is 12.4 percent, but your share is only half.

STRAIGHT FACE
My employer matches my Social Security tax. Sadly not my dessert order.

MONEY

Money your employer takes from your pay and sends to the government for your taxes is called what?

A A deductible

B Withholding

C A garnishment fee

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #5888

B Withholding

WHY Employers withhold money from your paycheck and deposit it for the government. It is credited against what you owe when you file your tax return.

STRAIGHT FACE
After I spoke with the tax auditor, I slept like a baby. I woke up every hour and cried.

MONEY

What percent of your wages does an employee pay for Medicare tax?

A 1.45 percent

B 6.2 percent

C 2.9 percent

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #5887

A 1.45 percent

WHY The employer pays a matching 1.45 percent, so the total is 2.9 percent. Unlike Social Security tax, Medicare tax has no wage base limit.

STRAIGHT FACE
Medicare tax is 1.45 percent. My patience at the DMV is less.

MONEY

Federal law sets what general minimum age for most non-farm jobs, with exceptions for some jobs at 14?

A 16

B 14

C 18

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A 16

WHY Federal rules let 14 and 15 year olds work in certain jobs outside school hours. For most non-farm jobs the general age is 16. Your state may add stricter rules.

STRAIGHT FACE
My boss told me I needed to be more flexible, so I sat in lotus position.

SESK.INFO #5890

MONEY

What is a minimum wage?

A The average pay for a job in your town

B The most a worker can earn per hour

C The lowest pay allowed by law or contract

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C The lowest pay allowed by law or contract

WHY A minimum wage is set by law or by contract. Employers cannot pay less than it, though some states and cities set a higher one than the federal minimum.

STRAIGHT FACE
Knock, knock. Who's there? Overtime. Overtime who? Overtime I try to leave, my boss gives me more work!

SESK.INFO #5889

MONEY

On a school day, how many hours may a 14 or 15 year old generally work?

A Up to 5 hours

B Up to 8 hours

C Up to 3 hours

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Up to 3 hours

WHY The federal limit for 14 and 15 year olds is 3 hours on a day when school is in session, and that includes Fridays.

STRAIGHT FACE
Three hours of work after school: just enough to earn a snack.

SESK.INFO #5892

MONEY

Federal law sets what minimum age for jobs declared particularly hazardous?

A 16

B 18

C 14

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B 18

WHY The Secretary of Labor can declare an occupation particularly hazardous for minors. For those jobs, federal law sets an 18 year minimum age.

STRAIGHT FACE
My boss told me I'd missed too much work lately. I told him I hadn't missed it much.

SESK.INFO #5891

MONEY

What is a gig?

A A single project or task a worker is hired to do

B A permanent full-time job

C A type of savings account

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A A single project or task a worker is hired to do

WHY Gigs are often short-term jobs found through a digital marketplace. Some people use gigs as a type of self-employment.

STRAIGHT FACE
Am I free tomorrow? No, I'm expensive. Sorry.

SESK.INFO #5896

MONEY

Which of these counts as earned income?

A A birthday gift from a grandparent

B Interest paid on a savings account

C Wages and tips from a job

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Wages and tips from a job

WHY Earned income comes from working for someone who pays you or from running a business or farm. Gifts and interest are income, but they are not earned from work.

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you call an accountant with an opinion?
An auditor.

SESK.INFO #5895

MONEY

Outside of summer, between which hours may a 14 or 15 year old generally work?

A 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

B 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

C 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

WHY Federal rules limit when 14 and 15 year olds can work, so shifts must be between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. during most of the year.

STRAIGHT FACE
I put "excellent communication skills" on my résumé. The interviewer asked me to elaborate. I said no.

SESK.INFO #5894

MONEY

In a week when school is in session, how many hours may a 14 or 15 year old generally work?

A Up to 18 hours

B Up to 12 hours

C Up to 24 hours

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Up to 18 hours

WHY Federal rules cap 14 and 15 year olds at 18 hours in any week when school is in session. In a week when school is out, the cap rises to 40 hours.

STRAIGHT FACE
Seen on a sign in the accounting firm: It's accrual world out there.

SESK.INFO #5893

MONEY

What is a payroll card?

- **A** A card that lets you borrow against your next paycheck
- **B** A card showing your hours worked
- **C** A prepaid card an employer uses to pay your wages

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C A prepaid card an employer uses to pay your wages

WHY Some employers load wages onto a prepaid card instead of using a check or direct deposit to a bank. You can spend what is loaded on it.

STRAIGHT FACE
My payroll card has two settings: loaded and sadly lighter.

SESK.INFO #5898

MONEY

What is direct deposit?

- **A** Cash handed over at a teller window
- **B** Money sent electronically to your account
- **C** A deposit that must be paid back with interest

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Money sent electronically to your account

WHY With direct deposit, your pay lands straight in your bank account, credit union account or prepaid card. No trip to the bank is needed.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why are accountants so cool, calm and collected? They have strong internal controls.

SESK.INFO #5897

MONEY

Which expense is a good use of an emergency fund?

- **A** Tickets to a concert
- **B** A surprise car repair
- **C** A new video game

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B A surprise car repair

WHY An emergency fund covers unplanned costs like car repairs, medical bills or lost income. Using savings means you avoid high-interest credit cards or loans.

STRAIGHT FACE
Seen on the T-shirt of an IRS tax agent: We've got what it takes to take what you got.

SESK.INFO #5900

MONEY

A common money rule says to save what share of what you earn?

- **A** 10 percent
- **B** 30 percent
- **C** 2 percent

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A 10 percent

WHY Once you have steady income, aim to send at least 10 percent of your earnings straight into savings. Doing it automatically makes it a habit.

STRAIGHT FACE
Knock, knock. Who's there? Nicholas. Nicholas who? Nicholas half as much as a dime.

SESK.INFO #5899

MONEY

What does 'pay yourself first' mean?

- **A** Move part of each paycheck into savings before spending
- **B** Spend on yourself before paying any bills
- **C** Pay your friends back before you save

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A **Move part of each paycheck into savings before spending**

WHY When you get paid, move some money into savings right away, ideally automatically. What is left is what you budget for spending.

STRAIGHT FACE
A parent gave her kid some sound advice before going to accounting school: Study hard so you can be audit you can be.

SESK.INFO #5902

MONEY

What is the main reason to build an emergency fund?

- **A** To earn the highest possible returns
- **B** To buy something you want right now
- **C** To cover surprises without credit card debt

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C **To cover surprises without credit card debt**

WHY People with little savings may rely on credit cards or loans after a surprise bill. Those can be harder to pay off because of interest and fees.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why do I keep paying the bills? It just encourages them to send more.

SESK.INFO #5901

MONEY

What does a savings account generally pay you?

- **A** A monthly salary
- **B** Cash back on every purchase
- **C** Interest

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C **Interest**

WHY A savings account is a place to set money aside, and the bank or credit union pays you interest for keeping it there.

STRAIGHT FACE
Where does a penguin keep its money? In a snow bank.

SESK.INFO #5904

MONEY

Saving $100 a year from age 14 at 5 percent grows to about how much by age 65?

- **A** About $5,100
- **B** About $23,000
- **C** About $10,000

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B **About $23,000**

WHY You would put in only $100 times about 51 years, or $5,100 of your own money. Compound interest earns interest on the interest, so time does most of the work.

STRAIGHT FACE
What did one penny say to the other penny? Let's get together and make some cents.

SESK.INFO #5903

MONEY

Which account is meant for everyday deposits, bill paying and withdrawals?

- **A** Checking account
- **B** Certificate of deposit
- **C** Retirement account

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Checking account

WHY A checking account lets you deposit paychecks, pay bills and withdraw money. A debit card spends directly from it.

STRAIGHT FACE
Did you hear about the new dating app for CPAs? It's called Let's Get Fiscal.

SESK.INFO #5905

MONEY

A certificate of deposit (CD) usually has what two fixed features?

- **A** A credit limit and a monthly fee
- **B** A maturity date and an interest rate
- **C** A spending limit and a PIN

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B A maturity date and an interest rate

WHY A CD is a savings tool at a bank or credit union. You agree to leave the money until the maturity date, and in return the rate stays fixed.

STRAIGHT FACE
How come accountants never see the glass as half-empty or half-full? They see the glass as twice as large as necessary!

SESK.INFO #5906

MONEY

For a goal within a year or two, where does the CFPB say money is safe?

- **A** Individual stocks
- **B** A friend's business
- **C** A savings account

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C A savings account

WHY Savings accounts are safe and help make sure the money is there when you need it. Money for goals more than five years away can be invested, with some risk.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the CPAs finally call off their on-again, off-again romance? They couldn't reconcile their differences.

SESK.INFO #5907

MONEY

What is inflation?

- **A** Prices of goods and services rising over time
- **B** The interest a bank charges on loans
- **C** A tax on paychecks

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Prices of goods and services rising over time

WHY When prices go up over time, the same dollar buys less than before. That is one reason money in a drawer slowly loses buying power.

STRAIGHT FACE
Living on earth may be expensive, but it includes an annual free trip around the sun.

SESK.INFO #5908

MONEY

You spend $40 on a game instead of saving it. What is the opportunity cost?

- **A** The $40 price of the game
- **B** The next best use of that money you gave up
- **C** The tax added to the game

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B The next best use of that money you gave up

WHY Opportunity cost is not the sticker price. It is the value of whatever you would have chosen instead, such as saving the money.

STRAIGHT FACE
My opportunity cost of sleeping in is a pancake.

SESK.INFO #5909

MONEY

FDIC insurance covers at least how much per depositor, per bank, per ownership category?

- **A** $25,000
- **B** $1 million
- **C** $250,000

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C $250,000

WHY If an FDIC-insured bank fails, the FDIC protects your deposits up to $250,000 per ownership category, such as single or joint accounts.

STRAIGHT FACE
"A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it." (Bob Hope)

SESK.INFO #5910

MONEY

Which of these is NOT covered by FDIC deposit insurance?

- **A** Crypto assets
- **B** A savings account
- **C** A certificate of deposit

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Crypto assets

WHY FDIC insurance covers deposits such as checking, savings, money market accounts and CDs. It does not cover stocks, bonds, mutual funds or crypto assets.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why won't the IRS embrace bitcoin? They don't trust anything they can't freeze.

SESK.INFO #5911

MONEY

Since 1933, how much FDIC-insured money has a depositor lost because of a bank failure?

- **A** Less than one percent
- **B** None
- **C** About ten percent

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B None

WHY The FDIC was founded in 1933 to protect depositors. Insured deposits are paid back if the bank fails.

STRAIGHT FACE
What has a hundred heads and a hundred tails?
One hundred pennies.

SESK.INFO #5912

MONEY

Bills that must be paid each month and cost about the same are called what?

- **A** Variable expenses
- **B** Wants
- **C** Fixed expenses

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Fixed expenses

WHY Fixed expenses, like a phone plan or subscription bill, stay about the same each month. Variable expenses change from month to month.

STRAIGHT FACE
What's the official job description of a CPA? Someone who solves a problem you did not know you had in a way you don't understand.

SESK.INFO #5913

MONEY

Which of these is a need rather than a want?

- **A** Food and shelter
- **B** The newest phone upgrade
- **C** Extra streaming services

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Food and shelter

WHY Needs are basics people must have, plus things like reliable transportation for work and emergency savings. Wants are nice upgrades you can live without.

STRAIGHT FACE
"I wish I had enough money to buy an elephant," a woman told her husband. "What do you need an elephant for?" he asked. "I don't," she replied. "I just need the money." (Sam Levenson)

SESK.INFO #5914

MONEY

A budget is also called what?

- **A** A tax return
- **B** A spending plan
- **C** A credit report

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B A spending plan

WHY A budget outlines the money you expect to earn and how you will save or spend it over a set time. It helps you decide before you spend.

STRAIGHT FACE
How is the moon like a dollar? They both have four quarters.

SESK.INFO #5915

MONEY

When you pay with a debit card, whose money are you spending?

- **A** Borrowed money from the bank
- **B** Money from your next paycheck
- **C** Your own, from your checking account

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Your own, from your checking account

WHY A debit card is linked to your checking account. A credit card is a loan, so you borrow and pay interest on any balance you carry.

STRAIGHT FACE
Knock, knock. Who's there? Iowa. Iowa who? Iowa you a dollar.

SESK.INFO #5916

MONEY

What is an overdraft?

- **A** A bank paying a transaction you lack the money to cover
- **B** A bonus for keeping a high balance
- **C** A lock on your account

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A **A bank paying a transaction you lack the money to cover**

WHY An overdraft happens when your account lacks the funds for a transaction but the bank pays it anyway. That can lead to fees, so check your balance first.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the IRS audit the chiropractor? He owed back taxes.

SESK.INFO #5917

MONEY

With mobile banking, what can you generally deposit using your phone?

- **A** Cash, but not checks
- **B** Checks, but not cash
- **C** Both cash and checks

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B **Checks, but not cash**

WHY Mobile banking lets you manage your account from a phone or tablet. You can generally deposit a check by photographing it, but not cash.

STRAIGHT FACE
My phone deposited a check and then asked if I wanted to rate the experience.

SESK.INFO #5918

MONEY

A bank may hold a deposit longer than one business day if the account is younger than how old?

- **A** 6 months
- **B** 1 year
- **C** 30 days

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C **30 days**

WHY Banks must usually make many deposits available the next business day, but a new account is one reason they may take longer.

STRAIGHT FACE
What did the football coach say to the broken vending machine? Give me my quarterback.

SESK.INFO #5919

MONEY

If you report a lost debit card within two business days, you owe at most how much for unauthorized charges?

- **A** $50
- **B** $500
- **C** The full amount

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A **$50**

WHY Report quickly. After two business days you could be responsible for up to $500 in unauthorized transactions.

STRAIGHT FACE
I lost my debit card. It's out there living its best life.

SESK.INFO #5920

MONEY

After your statement shows an unauthorized withdrawal, how soon should you notify your bank?

- **A** Within 6 months
- **B** Within 60 days
- **C** Within 1 year

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Within 60 days

WHY Wait longer than 60 days and you could owe the full amount of transactions that happened after that window and before you reported.

STRAIGHT FACE
When do accountants fall over? When they lose their balance.

SESK.INFO #5921

MONEY

After you report an unauthorized transaction, how long does a bank or credit union generally have to investigate?

- **A** Two business days
- **B** Ninety days
- **C** Ten business days

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Ten business days

WHY If the account has been open less than 30 days, the bank may take 20 business days. If it needs longer, it must generally give you a temporary credit.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did Sherlock Holmes get audited by the IRS? He had too many deductions.

SESK.INFO #5922

MONEY

Mobile payment apps like P2P services are safest used with whom?

- **A** People you know and trust
- **B** Anyone who asks for money
- **C** Strangers selling online

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A People you know and trust

WHY Scammers use payment apps and wire transfers to steal money. Even when someone you know asks, confirm it is really them before sending.

STRAIGHT FACE
Knock, knock. Who's there? Yolanda. Yolanda who? Yolanda me some money.

SESK.INFO #5923

MONEY

Where can you report an online scam involving a payment app, according to the CFPB?

- **A** The state DMV
- **B** The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center
- **C** Your school's front office

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center

WHY You can also contact your local police and your state attorney general, and report scams to the Federal Trade Commission.

STRAIGHT FACE
Knock, knock. Who's there? Hanover. Hanover who? Hanover your money.

SESK.INFO #5924

MONEY

What is the safest way to handle your debit card PIN?

- **A** Write it on the back of the card
- **B** Keep it on a note in your wallet
- **C** Memorize it and never write it on the card

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Memorize it and never write it on the card

WHY If a card or wallet is lost, a PIN written down gives a thief access. Report a stolen PIN within two business days to limit what you owe.

STRAIGHT FACE
Knock, knock. Who's there? Cash. Cash who? Cash me if you can.

SESK.INFO #5925

MONEY

Who owns a credit union?

- **A** Its members
- **B** The federal government
- **C** A few big investors

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Its members

WHY A credit union is a cooperative financial institution. It can be chartered by the National Credit Union Administration or by a state government.

STRAIGHT FACE
Knock, knock. Who's there? Celeste. Celeste who? Celeste time I lend you money.

SESK.INFO #5926

MONEY

What is an easy way to make saving automatic?

- **A** Wait until you have money left over
- **B** Set up recurring transfers to savings
- **C** Keep cash in your wallet

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Set up recurring transfers to savings

WHY Once set up, money moves on its own at the interval you choose. Keep an eye on your checking balance so the transfer does not cause an overdraft.

STRAIGHT FACE
Automatic saving: the only habit that works while you nap.

SESK.INFO #5927

MONEY

If an employer matches 401(k) contributions, what does the CFPB say is smart?

- **A** Skip the match and save elsewhere
- **B** Wait until age 50 to start
- **C** Save at least enough to get the full match

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Save at least enough to get the full match

WHY A match is extra money from your employer when you contribute. A 401(k) is a retirement account offered at work.

STRAIGHT FACE
A match is like free fries when you order a burger. Take the fries.

SESK.INFO #5928

MONEY

Most credit scores fall in which range?

- **A** 0 to 100
- **B** 300 to 850
- **C** 1 to 1,000

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B 300 to 850

WHY A credit score is a number that predicts how likely you are to repay what you borrow. Most scores run from 300 to 850, and higher is better.

STRAIGHT FACE
I asked my credit score how it was doing. It said, 'Fair.'

MONEY

In most cases, how much can you spend with a prepaid card?

- **A** Only what you loaded onto it
- **B** Whatever your credit limit allows
- **C** As much as your bank allows

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Only what you loaded onto it

WHY A prepaid card is loaded in advance, and it is not linked to a checking account. In most cases you cannot spend more than the loaded amount.

STRAIGHT FACE
My prepaid card has a limit. It's called empty.

1
AhaBulb POINT

1
AhaBulb POINT