

FREE PRINTABLE MONEY GUIDE | READ, PLAN, TAKE ONE STEP.

1 KNOW THE BASICS

Understand the offer



Principal

Amount you borrow.



Interest

Price of borrowing.



Term

How long you repay.



Repayment

Amount and frequency.

2 COMPARE OFFERS

Look beyond one number



APR

Useful standard comparison.



Total repayable

Add payments and charges.



Fees

Check upfront and late fees.



Fixed or variable

Can payments change?

3 CHECK THE RISKS

Think ahead



Affordability

Can you pay after essentials?



Security

Is an asset at risk?



Early repayment

Check charges or rights.



Missed payments

Know consequences.

4 BEFORE SIGNING

Pause and verify



Read terms

Ask about unclear clauses.



Verify lender

Use official registers.



Avoid pressure

Walk away from rushed offers.



Get advice

Use independent help if unsure.

MY NEXT MONEY STEP:

One action I will take: _____ By date: _____

LOANS_EXPLAINED — PRACTICAL NOTES

Keep this page with your visual quick-glance guide.

1 APR IS NOT THE ONLY COST

Compare total amount repayable, fees, repayment schedule and whether the interest rate may change.

2 SECURED LOANS NEED CARE

If a loan is secured on your home or other property, missed payments can put that asset at risk.

3 WATCH FOR LOAN SCAMS

Be suspicious of guaranteed approval, pressure, or unexpected advance fees. Verify the lender independently.

4 BORROW ONLY WHAT FITS

Stress-test your budget against reduced income or unexpected costs before committing.

MAKE IT PRACTICAL

Choose one small action, write it on page 1, and review it after a week. Use trusted, free advice services when you need help.

REFERENCE POINTS (check your local rules):

moneyhelper.org.uk/en/everyday-money/credit

fca.org.uk/consumers/loans-credit

consumerfinance.gov