Be the boss of your money: Are you in control of your spending or does it control you?

Now that you have identified some of your approaches to money, let's see if you can advise these characters about their money habits.



Meet Emma

Emma, who is 20, really wants to go travelling. She's been working since she left school at 16 and feels she missed out on some of the things that her friends did.

Her friends have told her that if she saves £4,000, she should be able to travel for at least three months if she's careful with her money along the way.

Emma wanted more independence, so she moved out of her family home when she was 18. She currently earns £1,100 a month.

On paper, she should be able to save some money every month to achieve her goal – but somehow she never seems to manage it.

ome	Emma's monthly outgoings	
£1,100	Rent (shared house)	£350
	Food (including takeaways)	£200
	Gas and Electricity	£40
	Council Tax	£60
	Mobile	£40
	Going out with friends	£200
	Clothes	£110
	Travel	£70
£1,100	Total	£1,070
	£1,100	monthly outgoings £1,100 Rent (shared house) Food (including takeaways) Gas and Electricity Council Tax Mobile Going out with friends Clothes Travel

Meet Mo

Mo has just finished his first year at university. He's having a great time but he is now at the limit of his overdraft of £500. He knows that he has been spending far too much of his

student loan on going out with friends, going to gigs, having takeaways and buying new clothes.

He hopes to stay on at university next year, but to do so, he is going to have to get much better at managing his money.

So far, he hasn't changed his behaviour, and he doesn't have any financial support other than his student loan.

Mo's monthly inc	come	Mo's monthly outgoings	
Student Lo	an £750	Rent (shared house)	£320
		Food (including takeaways)	£140
		Gas and Electricity	£30
		Mobile	£30
		Going out with friends	£200
		Clothes	£50
Total	£750	Total	£770

Talk to the person next to you and decide...

- Is Emma a planner, a dreamer or a drifter?
- Does she have a clear goal?
- Does she have a plan?
- What could she do to achieve her goal?

Have a think

- Do you have a goal in mind?
- Do you have a plan in place to achieve it?

Talk to the person next to you and decide...

- Is Mo a planner, a dreamer or a drifter?
- Does he have a clear goal?
- Does he have a plan?
- What could he do differently to ensure he can stay at university?

Have a think

■ What would you do in Mo's situation?