

Jed's balancing act – resource sheet 1

Your task is to:

- Read Jed's blogger's diary and calculate what it will cost him to move in with his friend.
- Complete his budget sheet.

Jed's budget blogger's diary.

5th Jan

I thought my life was pretty full as a trainee online games developer. But it's not as full as it has been sorting out what I need to do to move out of my parents' home at last! Don't get me wrong, I love them to bits – but I just need to do my own thing. I know it only costs me £200 a month with them, but it's time to get to know the real cost of living.

I'm taking a spare room in my friend's house, so my friend already pays for some things every month like Council Tax (£150), water (£20), and gas and electric (£60). I am going to have to pay half of all of those bills, as well as splitting the rent, which will cost me £300 a month. My pay is pretty good – so I should be OK – famous last words! **Got to go... catch you later.**

6th Jan

My friend wants to chat because I want a much faster broadband connection so that I can work at home sometimes. He is after a better TV package so that he can binge on box sets! I've also got to sort some phone insurance so I've been shopping around. Anyway I'm off to do a bit more research online...

7th Jan

Nothing is ever simple is it! I need to insure some of my stuff separately. So it's going to cost me £30 a month. I can't expect my friend to pay as it is not his. After shopping around, I found that I could get my phone insured through the home insurance, so it saved me some money this time.

We've done a deal on the TV package with the broadband and two contract SIMs - £90 a month. We will split this 50:50 and he is cool with that as I don't watch much stuff on TV, but we needed mega-fast broadband. So it seems like a fair deal.

9th Jan

Liam has just reminded me that the TV licence is due too, and that is half and half as well. He wants to pay it monthly, so that is about £7.50 a month each.

10th Jan

We have decided to share costs on the house basics like toilet rolls and toothpaste, and so we will give it a whirl and see if that works out. So, £30 a month each I guess. All of this before I've eaten anything! I reckon with food and stuff, I'm going to need to add on another £100 a month and that's without takeaways and going out. I know I spent £200 last month on socialising. Don't ask!

In fact, given that I spend £100 a month on travel, I should probably start cycling to work – that would save me £80 a month. Perhaps next month, too much to do for now. Anyway, think the bike probably needs one or two repairs first.

12th Jan

The big day has arrived. Just about to move my stuff and spend my first night away in my new place. Then we are off out to meet friends. That reminds me. If we are going out, I need some new clothes. I spent £120 last month, but that's a lot less than most of my friends do – they love their designer labels!

I'll let you know how I get on! Watch this space...



Jed's balancing act – resource sheet 2

Read Jed's diary blog and work out his monthly spend. Fill in the right hand column.

Jed's income	What comes in	Jed's expenditure per month	What goes out
Trainee online game developer Monthly income (net pay)	1100.00	Rent	
		Council Tax	
		Water	
		Gas/Electric (dual fuel)	
		TV package/broadband/ mobile phone	
		TV licence	
		Contents insurance	
		Food/shared consumables	
		Socialising	
		Travel	
		Clothes	
		Savings	
Total	£1100.00	Total	£

Answer these questions in your groups.

- How much will it cost Jed each month to live independently?
- How much more is it than living at home?
- Can he afford to live independently?
- Is Jed managing his money well?
- Is there anything he hasn't thought of? Use the extra lines in the budget planner to add in any extra expenditure you think he might have missed.