MODULE 05 / WEDDINGS, TRIPS & LIFE GOALS

Give every goal a funding plan.

Match the money to the date, without spending the same savings twice.

Your take-away

A ranked goal list and a payment timeline that stays funded before the final date.

By the end, you can

- Distinguish a final budget from payment-date affordability.
- Separate confirmed funding from conditional gifts or borrowing.
- Keep spending assumptions and travel units consistent.

Read. Work it out. Apply it.

Read the concepts and worked example first. Use the worksheet for your own decision, then answer the eight questions before turning to the answer key. Open the linked tools when you are ready to apply the ideas.

About 18 minutes with exercises · 8 questions · Version learning-2026.09-v1

Keep these checks beside your plan

- I have not reused emergency money or another goal's cash.
- Supplier allocations reconcile with the headline budget.
- Every payment date is funded, not just the final total.
- I tested late funding, changing costs and cancellation exposure.

01 / UNDERSTAND

The essentials

A goal has an amount and a date

Name the goal, total cost, due dates, currency and who pays. A total budget tells you how much is needed eventually; a payment timeline tells you whether each bill can be met. Deposits can create a shortfall months before a seemingly affordable event.

Each euro can fund one commitment at a time

A bank balance may contain cash reserved for several purposes. Keep emergency money, tax provisions and other committed savings outside a new goal's available funding. The current Playbook tools do not centrally reserve cash across every goal, so maintain an explicit allocation list.

Confirmed and hoped-for money are different

Record family contributions, reimbursements and sale proceeds with amount, date and certainty. Test the case in which conditional money arrives late or not at all. Borrowing is financing with future repayments and costs; it is not a saving contribution or an automatic solution.

Terms worth knowing

Committed cash. Money already assigned to a specific obligation or purpose.

Deposit. An upfront payment; refund and cancellation terms vary.

Contingency. An explicit allowance for uncertain costs.

Cash timeline. A dated schedule of inflows, outflows and remaining cash.

02 / APPLY

Put it into practice

1. Build the cost from its units

For a trip, flights are per traveller, hotels are per room-night and meals can be a daily total for the travelling party. Five hotel nights may mean six travel days. For a wedding, separate fixed supplier costs from costs that genuinely vary with the guest count.

2. Reconcile the allocations

Sum supplier costs, fees, taxes, buffers and contingency. If a €10,000 budget has allocations totalling 120%, planned suppliers cost €12,000. Lowering the headline budget without adjusting real quotes does not reduce those commitments.

3. Check both total and timing

Required monthly saving can be estimated as (total cost - saved cash - confirmed timely contributions) ÷ months left. Then place each deposit and balance payment on a timeline. If there are no months left, an unfunded amount is needed now; dividing by zero cannot create a saving plan.

When life crosses borders

For travel, relocation or overseas suppliers, record the invoice currency and transfer costs. Test an adverse exchange rate and check deposit, cancellation and refund terms. A currency move can increase the cost even if the foreign-currency quote stays fixed.

Before you decide

Counting saved cash as both a source and a new contribution. The initial pot appears once. New monthly saving is additional cash; moving that existing pot between your accounts does not add funding.

Cutting a guest count and assuming every cost falls. Venue hire, photography or deposits may be fixed or contractually committed. Update quotes rather than scaling every cost by guests.

Treating the event date as the only payment date. An affordable final total can coexist with an unaffordable deposit. Keep the running cash balance visible.

03 / WORK IT OUT

The wedding is funded on paper. The deposit is not.

A fictional €12,000 wedding is six months away. €2,000 is already set aside. A confirmed €4,000 family contribution arrives in month 6. The venue needs €3,000 today; €9,000 remains due in month 6.

When	Money added	Payment	Running balance
Today	€2,000 saved	€3,000 deposit	-€1,000
Months 1-5 combined	€5,000 saving	€0	€4,000
Month 6	€1,000 saving + €4,000 family	€9,000 balance	€0

Monthly saving = (€12,000 - €2,000 - €4,000) ÷ 6 = €1,000

The final arithmetic balances, but the deposit creates an immediate €1,000 shortfall. The negative balance is a warning, not permission to borrow. The household must bring confirmed funds forward, renegotiate the payment date or adjust the commitment before booking.

Your turn

Try it: two travellers each pay €200 for flights. One room costs €120 for five nights. Food is €60 per day for the whole party over six days; other trip costs total €240. What is the total?

Write your answer here; the worked solution is on page 8.

04 / MAKE IT YOURS

Your working notes

Decision: ______________________________ Review date: ______________

Use this page for estimates and questions. Keep account numbers, tax IDs and other sensitive records in an appropriate secure location.

1. Goal, amount, currency and final date

2. Cash already reserved for this goal; funds excluded for other purposes

3. Contributions: amount, arrival date, confirmed or conditional

4. Supplier deposits and balances by month

5. Affordable monthly allocation, first shortfall and decision before booking

My next action and when I will take it

Return to these notes after the knowledge check. Relevant tools and source references are on page 9.

05 / CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Knowledge check 1-4

Choose one answer for each question. Answers and explanations are on page 8.

1. Why can a goal be affordable in total but not yet bookable?

   A. A final total is always sufficient

   B. Deposits may fall due before funds arrive

   C. Only the largest bill matters

   D. Saving starts automatically

2. What monthly saving is needed in the wedding example?

   A. €2,000

   B. €500

   C. €1,000

   D. €1,667

3. What is the immediate deposit shortfall in that example?

   A. €1,000

   B. €3,000

   C. €4,000

   D. €0

4. A €10,000 budget has supplier allocations of 120%. What is the allocated supplier total?

   A. €8,000

   B. €10,000

   C. €2,000

   D. €12,000

05 / CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Knowledge check 5-8

Choose one answer for each question. Answers and explanations are on page 8.

5. Two people use one room for five nights at €120 per room-night. What is the hotel cost?

   A. €1,200

   B. €600

   C. €240

   D. €720

6. In the trip challenge, what is the total cost?

   A. €1,400

   B. €1,960

   C. €1,600

   D. €3,200

7. Which money can be counted as available for a new goal without double counting?

   A. All cash, including amounts reserved for taxes

   B. Money already assigned to another goal

   C. Uncommitted cash explicitly allocated to the new goal

   D. Every future gift regardless of timing

8. A goal is due today, and €500 is unfunded. What is the appropriate interpretation?

   A. The €500 is needed now or the commitment must change

   B. The monthly saving requirement is zero

   C. The calculator guarantees a loan

   D. Six months of saving remain

06 / REFLECT

Answers & explanations

1. B - Deposits may fall due before funds arrive

Timing matters. A deposit can create a cash shortfall even if final funding equals total cost.

2. C - €1,000

(€12,000 - €2,000 - €4,000) ÷ 6 = €1,000 a month.

3. A - €1,000

The deposit is €3,000 and only €2,000 is available today. The gap is €1,000.

4. D - €12,000

€10,000 × 1.20 = €12,000. The allocations exceed the headline budget by €2,000.

5. B - €600

One room × five nights × €120 = €600. Traveller count is not a second room count.

6. C - €1,600

€400 flights + €600 hotel + €360 food + €240 extras = €1,600. Food is already for the whole party.

7. C - Uncommitted cash explicitly allocated to the new goal

Cash already committed elsewhere is not simultaneously available for a new purpose.

8. A - The €500 is needed now or the commitment must change

With no time to save, the gap requires immediate funding or an adjusted commitment.

Worked answer: your turn

Flights €400 + hotel €600 + food €360 + extras €240 = €1,600. Food is already a party total, so do not multiply it by the travellers again.

A score checks these concepts, not your readiness to make a financial commitment. Revisit any missed ideas before applying them.

07 / TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Use your Playbook

Wedding budget

Record source arrival dates and supplier payment timing; inspect early shortfalls.

Vacation planner

Compare trip alternatives using people, rooms, nights and days consistently.

Budget optimizer

Check whether the combined monthly allocations fit the household surplus.

Sources & scope

Original explanations and fictional worked examples. These official references support the background concepts; local rules and exclusions still apply.

MoneyHelper: Budget planner

Household scope, records and budgeting periods.

CFPB: Building an emergency fund

Purpose, accessibility and circumstances behind a cash reserve.

Source review: 6 September 2026. This is an English-language learning edition. EUR, USD and BRL examples use explicitly stated fictional inputs; they are not live exchange quotes.

Tool links will work when the matching website release is published. Before launch, open the corresponding HTML pages in your site preview. Review model assumptions before using an output.