



# YOUR \$

FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR KIDS

# Choose

# USED!

**Buying used products is better for your budget—and the planet.**

Reduce,  
Reuse,

**SAVE!**

## Get Started

**Buying used products is cheaper—and better for the environment.**

Remember this rule: If it's good for the planet, it's good for you. And often, it can help you or your family save money. Used items are cheaper. And buying secondhand is less wasteful. It's a choice that helps you fulfill the first two rules of living green: Reduce and reuse.

Take a car, for example. A new 2018 Ford Focus S sells for about \$20,000. A similar used car from 2015 costs about half that. Maybe its owner put 20,000 miles on the car, causing it to depreciate. But a used car might still be perfect for your family's needs—and budget.

Think of it this way: Your family saved a car from the junk heap. Not to mention that manufacturing a new car generates a lot of pollution.

## Make a Choice

### WHEN YOU BUY NEW

Say you're looking to buy a new pair of jeans. They could come with a big price tag, plus a high hidden cost to the environment. First, it takes a lot of land and water to grow the cotton for making denim. Toxic chemicals are used to dye the denim blue. Then even more water is needed to wash it. Next, the jeans are sewn at a factory that uses energy and releases pollutants into the air. Materials like plastic or paper are used to package the jeans for shipment to a store. And shipping causes more pollution.

### WHEN YOU BUY USED

When you buy secondhand, you do the Earth a favor. You stop that car, those jeans, or that gadget from becoming waste. Not all unwanted items are recycled. Some trash goes to a landfill where it's buried in the ground. Other trash gets burned in an incinerator. Neither option is good for the environment. Many landfills leak toxic gases and chemicals into the ground, water, and air. Some incinerators may have filters to keep dangerous fumes out of the air. Still, fumes can escape and harm the atmosphere.

**TIP!**

### BORROW AND SHARE

For bookworms, there's nothing like the local library. Sign up for a library card and you can curl up with good books without breaking the bank. Libraries often lend video games, too. Or you can swap with friends with similar interests.

### Family Challenge

In honor of **EARTH DAY**, come up with three things you and your family could do to help the planet. Will the activities save your family money, too? Talk it over.

**TIP!**

### TRADE WITH FRIENDS

Try out a fun way to recycle. Trade clothes, toys, and games with friends and family. Organize a swap session. Bring your castoffs and leave with things that are brand-new to you.

**TIP!**

### SHOP SMART

Look for used clothes at thrift stores and garage sales. Or shop resale websites like thredUP.com. Tech can have a second life too. Decluttr.com and Gazelle.com fix up and resell phones, tablets, laptops, and other gadgets.



### Power Words

**depreciate** verb: to decrease in value

**eco-conscious** adjective: showing concern for the environment

## The Winner Is...

### THE BUY-USED MOVEMENT

The good news? Going green is popular. People are becoming more **eco-conscious**. They are finding new ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle. The clothing company Madewell encourages shoppers to exchange their old jeans for \$20 off a new pair. The old denim gets turned into housing insulation. Retailers like Amazon, Apple, and Best Buy have trade-up programs. Customers can exchange old tech devices for a discount on new ones. And IKEA is testing furniture rental in some cities. The company might some day buy furniture back from consumers, then recycle the materials. What do you say: Is buying used in your future?

—Hayden Field

# TRY THESE TIPS

Buying used isn't the only way to save money and help the environment. Here are other steps you and your family can take. Remember: Small efforts can add up to big change!



**Green Gaming** Game systems can be energy hogs. But there are ways to cut down on waste. If you have an Xbox One, activate the energy-saving “power mode” setting. That drops the console’s standby power use by up to 98%, according to EnergyStar.gov. If you have a PlayStation 4, program it to shut off sooner after play. Reduce the default setting for “rest” mode from an hour of idleness to 15 minutes. Finally, check your console’s settings for an automatic turn-off feature for controllers. Set it for 10 or 30 minutes.

## Bye-Bye, Bottles

On average, each American drank about 40 gallons of bottled water in 2017. The cost of our water habit adds up to around \$50 per person per year, according to the Beverage Marketing Corporation. Switching to tap is a win-win. You'll cut down on plastic *and* save your family money.



## Long-Lasting Lights

The average U.S. monthly electric bill was just over \$112 in 2016, according to the Energy Information Administration. Help your family cut costs.

Start by turning off lights when you're not using them. Then go a step further. Find the five most frequently used lightbulbs in your home. Ask a family member to help you replace them with energy-efficient models. Look for bulbs with the Energy Star logo. The upgrade could save \$75 per year.



## ASK JEAN:

### What does investment mean?

—Faith Bosarge, 11  
Bayou La Batre, Alabama

*Investment* means putting resources—generally time or money—into something you hope will be more valuable later on. We invest money in companies when we buy pieces of those companies, which are called shares of stock. Our hope is that if we buy a share for \$15, the company will do well over time. Down the road, we might be able to sell that

share for \$25, or more. We invest time in businesses that we start because we want them to succeed financially, to earn more money for us and the people who work for us. Interestingly, we can also invest in people. When your parents put away money to help you pay for college or spend time helping you with homework, they're making an investment in your future.

Do you have a question? Write to Jean at [tfkasks4you@timeforkids.com](mailto:tfkasks4you@timeforkids.com).

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