YNAB (You Need a Budget) Cheat Sheet

by Peter Fife (pfife) via cheatography.com/66301/cs/44940/

The Four Rules

Give Every Dollar A job

> Every dollar needs a purpose — Don't leave money unassigned

Embrace True Expenses

> Plan for irregular expenses — Break large expenses into monthly amounts — Set target dates for future expenses

Roll with the Punches

> Move money between categories — No guilt in reallocating

Age of Your Money

> Work toward 30-day buffer — Break paycheck-to-paycheck cycle

See YNAB's Ultimate Get Started Guide (https://www.ynab.com/guide/the-ultimate-get-started-guide)

Targets

Weekly, **Monthly**, **Yearly** & **Custom**

Set aside another...:
Adds fresh money regardless of rollover amount

Refill up to...:
Assigns enough to fill the category up to the target amount

Set aside...: Save specific amount by date
Example: $300 every 6 months car insurance

Have a balance of...: Build to amount
Example: $10,000 for house down payment

See YNAB Getting Started with Targets (https://support.ynab.com/en_us/getting-started-with-targets-ryAEP08xC)

Credit Cards

To understand how to work with Credit Cards best to read/watch their help documentation. See Handling Credit Cards in YNAB: An Overview.

Budget Setup

Create Category Groups

- Fixed Monthly Expenses
- True Expenses (irregular)
- Quality of Life Goals
- Emergency Fund

Set Up Targets

- Add due dates
- Include target amounts
- Choose appropriate target type

Daily Management

- ★ Enter Transaction immediately
- ★ Reconcile accounts weekly
- ★ Use scheduled transactions

Pro Tips

- 👍 Use emojis for categories ☺💵🏛
- 👍 Add notes to transactions
- 👍 Get age of money to 30 days

Additional Notes:
Dates matter for targeting, Categories can be hidden, Link accounts for auto-import, Mobile app for real-time tracking

Budget Templates

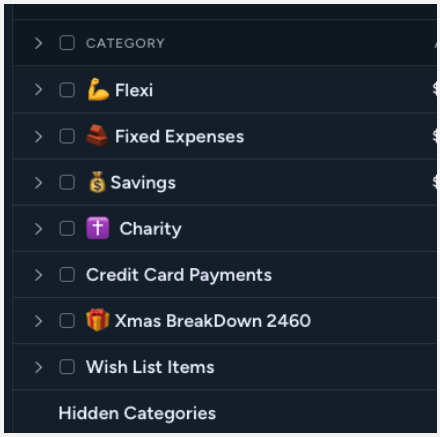
- Set up recurring expenses
- Define Target amounts
- Add due dates

Category Templates
Feel stuck trying to figure out where to start? Try one of YNAB's templates. (https://support.ynab.com/category-templates-HknjS_RA)

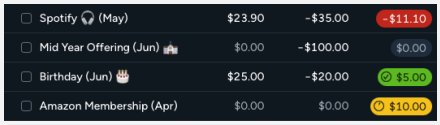
Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Budgeting money you don't have
- Ignoring credit overspending
- Skipping reconciliation
- Not updating targets

Category Groups



Category Colors



Color Meaning

Green

> Fully funded category - Met target goal - Ready for spending

Yellow

> Underfunded category - Needs more money - Target not met

Red

> Overspent category - negative balance - Needs immediate attention

Gray

> No target set - No spending activity - Optional funding

See YNAB Colors and Icons documentation (https://support.ynab.com/en_us/colors--and-icons-in-your-budget-an-overview-HJ-Qv_XHko)



By **Peter Fife** (pfife)
cheatography.com/pfife/

Published 11th November, 2024.
Last updated 11th November, 2024.

Sponsored by **Readable.com**
Measure your website readability!
https://readable.com