

Work-Life Balance

Charlie has been working at a local burger joint making \$11.25/hour (after taxes). He currently works 40 hours a week (full-time), but he wants to work less and spend more time playing Brokéman Go with his friends. If Charlie works 30 hours, can he still make enough to cover his expenses? It's your job to help him figure it out.

Login to Banzai, click **Middle School Personal Finance**, scroll down to the library section, and read the **Balancing Quality and Cost** article. Use that and the **Budget Calculator** to answer the questions below. **Hint:** make sure to select a category when entering his budget.

Monthly After-Tax Income \$1,800
(4 week month)

Monthly Expenses

Rent	\$400
Food	\$180
Entertainment	\$170
Phone	\$80
Utilities	\$50
Car Payment	\$135
Car Insurance	\$90
Gas	\$160
Clothing	\$25
Internet	\$50

Yearly Expenses

Medical	\$1,500
Emergency	\$1,000

Change Charlie's Monthly After-Tax Income in the Budget Calculator to \$1,390. This is how much Charlie would make if he worked 30 hours/week. His monthly savings should drop to -\$158.

1. Can Charlie work 30 hours a week without changing his budget?

a. True

☒ b. False

2. What is a practical way Charlie could lower his Food budget?

He could eat out less often.

3. What is a practical way Charlie could lower his Gas budget?

He could start riding the bus to work

4. What are TWO ways Charlie could lower his Entertainment budget?

He could rent movies instead of going to the theater or get a library card instead of buying books.

5. Adjust Charlie's budget for **Food**, **Entertainment**, and **Gas** to reflect the answers you gave for questions 3–5. The goal is for the amount in **Monthly Savings** to be \$0 or more. How much is left in each of the three categories? **Hint:** There's not one right answer here. It's possible that the way you lower the budget in these categories will differ from the way a friend does it.

Food \$ 150

Entertainment \$ 100

Gas \$ 100

6. After adjusting Charlie's budget, can he afford to work 30 hours a week instead of 40?

☒ a. Yes

b. No

7. Do you think Charlie should work less and play more with his friends or still work full time and save money? Why?

Example: I think Charlie should continue working full time. He makes more money that way, and he can start saving for his future. OR I think Charlie should work less.
