

# Saving for a rainy day in any language

Students create a word wall in the language they're studying to explore the importance of saving for unexpected expenses.

## Learning goals

### Big idea

Saving money for unexpected expenses makes it easier to face challenges.

### Essential questions

- Why is it important to have an emergency savings account?
- What are unexpected expenses?

### Objectives

- Identify unexpected expenses that could happen
- Practice using rich language and vocabulary (in the language of study) in real world contexts

## What students will do


- Brainstorm unexpected expenses.
- Create a word wall in the language of study with terms for those unexpected expenses.

### NOTE

Please remember to consider your students' accommodations and special needs to ensure that all students are able to participate in a meaningful way.

### KEY INFORMATION

#### Building block:

-  Financial knowledge and decision-making skills

**Grade level:** Middle school (6–8)

**Age range:** 11–14

**Topic:** Save and invest (Building emergency savings, Choosing how to save)

**School subject:** World languages

**Teaching strategy:** Direct instruction, Project-based learning

**Bloom's Taxonomy level:** Remember, Understand

**Activity duration:** 45–60 minutes

### National Standards for Personal Financial Education, 2021

Spending: 4-1, 8-1, 12-1

Saving: 4-1, 4-2, 8-1, 8-2, 12-9

These standards are cumulative, and topics are not repeated in each grade level. This activity may include information students need to understand before exploring this topic in more detail.

## Preparing for this activity

- While it's not necessary, completing the "Opening a savings account" activity first may make this one more meaningful.
- Gather index cards or slips of paper and markers for the students.

### What you'll need

#### THIS TEACHER GUIDE

- [Saving for a rainy day in any language \(guide\)](#)  
[cfpb\\_building\\_block\\_activities\\_saving-rainy-day-any-language\\_guide.pdf](#)

#### STUDENT MATERIALS

- Index cards or slips of paper and markers

## Exploring key financial concepts

You'll probably experience some type of unexpected expense in your life. A car repair, a broken cell phone, or lost glasses can be both unplanned and expensive. If you don't have savings, paying for these kinds of unexpected expenses may be difficult to manage. Having money set aside for a rainy day (an unexpected expense) can help you avoid borrowing money. Overall, emergency savings can help make those unexpected situations easier to manage.

## Teaching this activity

### Whole-class introduction

- Ask students to use the language they're learning to share what they think the idiom "saving for a rainy day" means.
- Give students one or two examples of unplanned expenses, like a car breaking down or a cell phone breaking.
- Be sure students understand key vocabulary:
  - **Budget:** A plan that outlines what money you expect to earn or receive (your income) and how you will save it or spend it (your expenses) for a given period of time; also called a spending plan.

#### TIP

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Visit CFPB's financial education glossary at [consumerfinance.gov/financial-education-glossary/](https://consumerfinance.gov/financial-education-glossary/).

- **Financial emergencies:** Expenses that come up unexpectedly, are very important, and need attention right away.
- **Savings:** Money you have set aside in a secure place, such as in a bank account, that you can use for future emergencies or to make specific purchases.
- Ask students to think of an example of an unexpected event or emergency that could cost money.
- Generate a list in the language you're studying.

## Individual work

- Assign each student an unexpected expense to focus on.
- Students should write their examples on the index cards or slips of paper you gave them.
  - Examples might include cell phone repairs, lost glasses, or a flat tire on a bike.
  - You also can consider having students include pictures to illustrate their examples (either drawn, printed out, or cut out from magazines). This may help them associate the language with the images.

## Wrap-up

- Ask students to tape their examples to a wall or blackboard.
  - You can label the word wall "Saving for a rainy day" in the language students are studying.
- Bring the class back together and discuss the items on the wall.
- Address any questions that arise.

## Suggested next steps

Consider searching for other [CFPB activities](#) that address the topics of saving and investing, including building emergency savings and choosing how to save. Suggested activities include "[Learning about budgets](#)" and "[Saving for short- and long-term goals](#)."

## Measuring student learning

Students' responses on their worksheets and during discussion can give you a sense of their understanding.

**Keep in mind that students' answers may vary, as there may not be only one right answer.** The important thing is for students to have reasonable justification for their answers.