# Getting a credit card and using it wisely

**Note to parents and caregivers:**

Below are some quick instructions for this activity. Work through the activity together!

* Go to the “Using credit” webpage on the consumer.gov website at [https://www.consumer.gov/articles/1010-using-credit.](https://www.consumer.gov/articles/1010-using-credit)
  + Both of the articles are also available in the handout titled-Using credit (What to do, What it is, What to Know)
* Answer the questions with your child on this worksheet using the information from the webpage’s “What it is” and “What to know” tabs. Let the child attempt to answer the questions on their own, and provide assistance as needed.
* Talk about the reflection questions in the “Talk about it” section together.

**Getting a credit card**

Have you ever needed to make a purchase but didn’t have all of the money at that exact moment? Some people will use a credit card in these situations. Others will wait and save up for the purchase. It’s important to learn about credit cards and their terms before applying for one.

## Part. I Using credit: What it is

Visit <https://www.consumer.gov/articles/1010-using-credit#!what-it-is> to answer the questions below.

If you get a credit card, why is it important to look for one that has a low interest rate?

Who offers people credit cards?

## Part II. Using credit: What to know

Visit <https://www.consumer.gov/articles/1010-using-credit#!what-to-know> to answer the questions below.

In your own words, explain how a credit card works.

Why might someone want or need a secured credit card?

Why is it a good idea to pay your entire credit card bill each month?

### **Part III. Talk about it**

Once you have a credit card of your own, what types of things might you pay for with it? Explain your choices.

Why would it be important to carefully keep track of how much you charge on your credit card?

How does using a credit card help with your credit history?

What are some reasons for getting a credit card?

How do you feel about getting and using a credit card after completing this activity?

Note: This worksheet was adapted from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s Building Blocks student worksheet: “Getting a credit card and using it wisely.”