

Citibank Credit^{ED} presents the adventures of

Anita Future & LES FORESIGHT

Episode 3: Spring Break

Anita Stays on Track



PLANNING AHEAD

A credit card is an important financial tool that allows you to buy now with the promise to pay later. Its also a good way to pay for larger purchases over time. Calculating your income and expenses ahead of time is a good way to protect yourself from more debt than you can handle. Make your spending decisions based on what you can afford, not how much credit you have.

Credit cards can help you manage your money. Or they can manage you.

GET SMART ABOUT YOUR CREDIT CARD

Paying more than the minimum due can save you a lot in interest charges. If you just paid the minimum due on a \$1,000 balance, you'd wind up paying over \$800 in interest and it would take you more than 7 years to pay it off! (That's assuming an APR of 18% and a minimum payment of 2.0% of the balance, or \$20.)

LES LOSES TRACK



KEEPING YOUR CARD SAFE

Know where your card is at all times, and never keep your PIN on or near the card. Carry only the cards you need. Having your photo on the card helps protect you if the card is lost or stolen. Keep a record of your card number, expiration date, and customer service phone number in a safe place, separate from your card. Call your credit card company right away if your card is missing. Save all your receipts to check against your statement and tear up all carbons.

KNOW YOUR LIMITS

A credit card is a more economical tool if you learn to avoid the fees that can be associated with credit. Pay your bill on time every month to avoid a late fee. Know your credit limit and your balance to avoid the over-the-credit-line fee. Keep track of your charges and stop using the card when you are near your limit, until you make a payment. A perfect record of paying on time and staying within your credit limit is a good way to build a strong credit history, too.

To learn more about Credit Matters, visit <http://credit-ed.citibank.com>

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