The Money Workshop with Matze

Free sample: how much is accessible?

Net worth is the estimated value of your assets minus your liabilities on the same date. For items you could sell, use a plausible current value rather than automatically using the purchase price. Record selling costs and uncertainty separately. Include only your documented share of jointly owned assets.

Lea has 4,800 in cash, a car with an estimated resale value of 7,000, and an outstanding car loan of 3,200. Her simplified net worth is 4,800 plus 7,000 minus 3,200, or 8,600. An allocation for a future bill is not subtracted again unless it represents a liability already being recorded.

Net worth of 8,600 does not mean 8,600 is readily spendable. A sale takes time and Lea may need the car. Keep valuation and accessibility in separate columns. This is a learning snapshot, not a professional valuation or tax balance sheet.

Prepare Lea's dated balance sheet, mark 900 as committed, and calculate unrestricted cash and monthly headroom.

Answer and check

Net worth: 8,600. Unrestricted cash: 4,800 − 900 = 3,900. Monthly headroom before further discretionary spending: 600. The car and expected reimbursement are not immediately available cash.

Every amount has a date and source; credit limits, own-account transfers and expected reimbursements are not counted as income.

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