

We learn math in school, but not how to manage money. Thankfully, financial technology is stepping in to teach the lessons we never got in the classroom. We're living in a financial tech revolution. Back then, people would carry a wallet full of cash in order to buy things but now all you really need is a phone. No more panic when you misplace your wallet. But with the ease of tap-to-pay, it's just as easy to lose track of spending. That's where budgeting apps step in to keep us in check.

Phones have become a daily tool for everything, from talking calls to gps and food apps which can help find your new favorite restaurant and now banking. Banking is now easier than ever. With 24/7 access to your accounts, you can check how much funds you have to spend before making a financial decision. On top of that, you can do so much more than just check your personal accounts, you can even check your credit score and credit report without facing penalties like before. Having this knowledge can allow you to plan for those big purchases like a car, apartment and even a home.

The ability to pay with our phone has completely changed how many businesses operate, so much that some businesses have gone cashless. Preferring tap pay and or visa cards only. This new method to pay for things is very convenient but also risky. Since all it takes is a simple tap of your phone/card to pay your bill in full it can be easy to lose track of spending. Budgeting apps like Mint and YNAB make it easy to track where your money goes by automatically categorizing expenses. For example, seeing how much you spend on fast food each month can be shocking—and motivating. These tools help users set saving goals, monitor progress, and adjust habits. Over time, they turn financial awareness into action, helping people spend more intentionally and save with purpose. Developing good financial habits as a young adult can be the difference between financial literacy and illiteracy later on in adulthood.

Managing your expenses is very important but knowing how to invest is something that separates working for money and money working for you. Investing used to sound like something only rich people did in suits but now, apps like Robinhood and Acorns make it simple for anyone to start. You can literally invest your spare change from lunch or throw in \$5 just to test the waters. It's a low-risk way to learn how money grows over time.

Who knew our phones would go from texting buddies to financial life coaches? With online banking, budgeting tools, and investment apps, managing money doesn't have to feel like rocket science. These tools give us the power to break bad habits, build savings, and even plan for the future. In the end, with a little discipline and the right app, anyone can turn "I'm broke" into "I'm building wealth."