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Personal Finance · Book 2

Saving Money

Build your ipon step by step — even on a small sweldo, allowance or padala

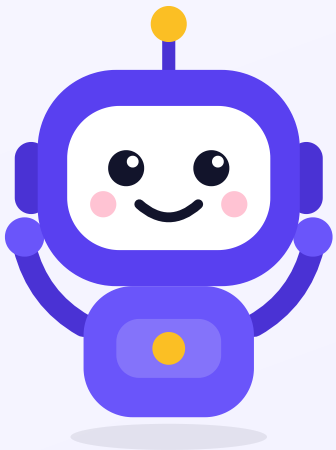
Total beginner · ages 13 and up

About 80 minutes

10 chapters with quizzes

Free

Small coins, big dreams! Let's build your ipon one payday at a time.



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Saving Money

Build your ipon step by step — even on a small sweldo, allowance or padala
Personal Finance, Book 2 · First edition, November 2026

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What you will learn

- Why saving matters, even when your income is small
- Money words like interest, compound interest, dividends and inflation — in plain words
- How to set saving goals with an amount, a date and a per-payday number
- How to pay yourself first and make saving automatic
- Where to keep your savings: basic deposit accounts, digital banks, time deposits and Pag-IBIG MP2
- How to protect your ipon from impulse spending, family pressure and "too good to be true" scams

This is **Book 2** of the **Personal Finance** series. It builds on Book 1 (Budgeting for Filipinos). If you already have a simple budget, you're ready. If not, the quick version is: know your take-home money, save first, plan your needs, then your wants.

Our honest promise

Saving won't make you rich overnight, and nobody can promise you high returns with no risk. This book shows you simple habits that work on any income. It is general information, not financial advice. Rates change, so always check the official website before you decide. All names and amounts in the examples are made up.

Age note

This series is for ages 13 and up. Students can open a kids or teen savings account with a parent or guardian at many banks. Pag-IBIG MP2 is for Pag-IBIG members, usually people who work.

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What you need

Item	Why
Your budget from Book 1	Shows how much you can save each payday
A savings goal (or a few)	Gives your ipon a reason
A valid ID (or a parent's, for students)	To open a savings account
Your phone or a notebook	To track your progress
About 15–20 minutes a day for 2 weeks	To set up habits that run by themselves

How to use this book

1 **Pick one goal first**

One clear goal is easier to start than five.

2 **Use your own numbers**

Replace every made-up amount with yours.

3 **Check your learning**

Every chapter ends with key takeaways, 3 quiz questions with answers, and a practice task.

THE SAVING FORMULA IN ONE LINE

```
Goal amount ÷ number of paydays until the goal = how much to save every payday
```

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THE END Quick Summary

WHAT'S NEXT Your Next Learning Path

EXTRA Free ToolsKo Tools for This Book

EXTRA Words to Know (Glossary)

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CHAPTER 1

Why Saving Money Matters

Savings turn “someday” into a real date. They also turn emergencies into inconveniences instead of disasters.

Many Filipinos grew up with an **alkansya** — a coin bank made of bamboo, clay or a tin can. The idea was simple: put coins in, don’t take them out, and one day you have enough for something special. Grown-up saving works the same way. The only difference is the tools.

New word: ipon

Ipon (savings) is money you set aside today for a goal or need in the future. Think of it like rice in a sack: you don’t cook it all at once — you keep some, so there’s food tomorrow, next week and during the rainy season.

PICTURE 1 **Life without and with ipon**

NO IPON

Every surprise hurts

- A broken phone means a loan
- Goals stay “someday”
- Borrowing before payday
- Stress when work slows down

WITH IPON

You have choices

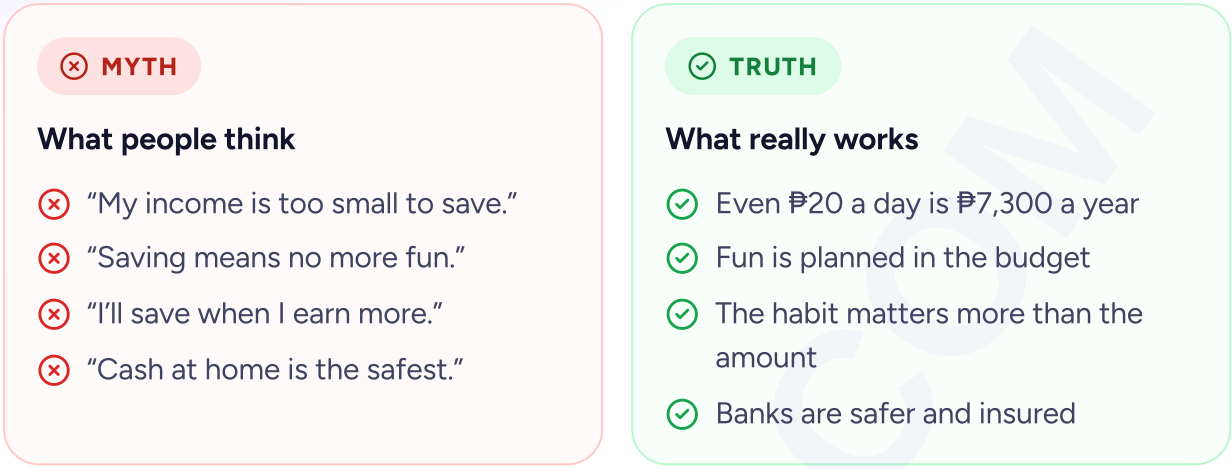
- Fix the phone from savings
- Goals have dates
- No “utang” for wants
- Calm when income dips

Savings don’t stop problems from happening. They stop problems from becoming emergencies.

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Saving myths

PICTURE 2 **Saving myths vs truths**



The habit is the hard part. Once it runs on autopilot, the amount can grow.

The big idea of this book

Save first, save on autopilot, save for a reason. Savings that happen first and automatically, for a goal you care about, are the savings that actually grow.

A real-world example

Joel, a delivery rider, always said he couldn't save. He started with ₱50 a day — less than one milk tea — and moved it to a separate savings account every night. After one year he had about ₱18,000. When his motorcycle needed a ₱6,500 repair, he paid in cash instead of borrowing.

QUICK RECAP

Ipon is money set aside today for the future. Small amounts add up: ₱20 a day is ₱7,300 a year. Savings turn emergencies into inconveniences and "someday" goals into real dates. Big idea: save first, save on autopilot, save for a reason.

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TRY IT NOW

Your saving story

1. Write how much you saved last month (it's okay if it's zero).
2. Write one thing you had to borrow for or couldn't buy because you had no savings.
3. Write one goal you would love to reach this year.

Key takeaways

- Ipon is money for the future.
- Small amounts add up fast.
- The habit matters more than the amount.
- Big idea: save first, on autopilot, for a reason.

Quiz: 3 quick questions

1. How much is ₱20 a day after one year?

A ₱7,300
B ₱730
C ₱20,000

2. What does savings do when something breaks?

A Lets you pay without borrowing
B Nothing
C Makes things break more

3. What is the big idea of this book?

A Save first, on autopilot, for a reason
B Save whatever is left
C Only save when you're rich

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Answers

1. **A. ₱7,300** — ₱20 × 365 days = ₱7,300.
2. **A. Lets you pay without borrowing** — Savings turn emergencies into inconveniences.
3. **A. Save first, on autopilot, for a reason** — First + automatic + a goal = savings that grow.

PRACTICE TASK

Your first ₱100

Before the week ends, set aside ₱100 (or ₱20 if money is very tight) in a separate place — an envelope, a jar or a savings account. Write the date. That is the start of your ipon.

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CHAPTER 2

Beginner Basics: How Savings Grow (and Shrink)

Savings can grow through interest — or quietly shrink because of rising prices. A few simple words explain both.

Money words you will use

Word	What it means	Example
Interest	Money a bank pays you for keeping your savings there	₱100,000 at 0.25% earns ₱250 in a year, before tax
Final withholding tax	Tax the bank takes from your interest	20% of the interest, not of your savings
Compound interest	Earning interest on your interest too	Interest is added, then it earns more interest
Dividend	A share of earnings paid to members (like Pag-IBIG MP2)	MP2 paid 7.12% for 2025
Inflation	Prices going up over time	7.8% in October 2026
Liquidity	How fast you can get your money	Savings account: same day. MP2: after 5 years
Maturity	The date locked money becomes free to withdraw	A 1-year time deposit matures after 1 year

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New word: compound interest

Compound interest is like a snowball rolling down a hill. At first it's small. As it rolls, it picks up more snow — and the bigger it gets, the more snow it picks up each turn. Your interest earns interest, so time makes savings grow faster.

Same ₱1,000 a month, different results

Where ₱1,000 a month goes for 5 years	You put in	About how much you'd have
Under the bed (no interest)	₱60,000	₱60,000 — and prices went up
Regular savings account (about 0.25% a year, minus 20% tax)	₱60,000	About ₱60,300
A savings option earning about 7% a year, tax-free (like MP2 did for 2025)	₱60,000	About ₱71,800

Rough estimates for learning only. Rates change every year and are not promised.

The 20% tax is on interest only

Since July 1, 2025, banks take a 20% final tax from the **interest** you earn — on savings and time deposits of any term. Your savings themselves are **not** taxed. If you earn ₱250 interest, the tax is ₱50 and you keep ₱200.

Why inflation matters to savers

If prices rise 7.8% in a year but your savings earn 0.25%, your money buys less than before. That's okay for short-term money you need to reach fast (like an emergency fund). For goals that are years away, look for places that earn more — while staying safe.

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PICTURE 3 **Three kinds of saving goals**



The sooner you need the money, the safer and easier to reach it must be. The longer you can wait, the more it can earn.

QUICK RECAP

Interest is money paid for keeping savings; the bank takes 20% of the interest (not the savings) as final tax. Compound interest makes savings grow faster over time. Dividends, like MP2's, are shares of earnings and change every year. Inflation shrinks what money can buy. Match where you save to when you need the money.

TRY IT NOW

Know your account

1. Find the interest rate of your savings account (app or bank website).
2. Write how much interest you earned last year (check your statement).
3. Sort your goals into: within 1 year, 1–5 years, 5+ years.

Key takeaways

- Interest pays you for saving.
- 20% tax is on interest, not savings.
- Compound interest rewards time.
- Inflation shrinks idle money.

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Quiz: 3 quick questions

1. You earn ₱250 interest. How much do you keep after the 20% final tax?

A ₱200

B ₱250

C ₱50

2. What is compound interest?

A Earning interest on your interest too

B A bank fee

C A kind of loan

3. Which goal can usually go in a place that takes longer to withdraw from?

A A house in 7 years

B Next week's rent

C Tomorrow's fare

Answers

1. **A. ₱200** — 20% of ₱250 is ₱50, so you keep ₱200.
2. **A. Earning interest on your interest too** — Like a snowball that grows as it rolls.
3. **A. A house in 7 years** — Long-term goals can wait for maturity and earn more.

PRACTICE TASK

Your snowball

Use the ToolsKo Compound Interest Calculator: try ₱500 a month for 5 years at 0.25% and at 7%. Write both results and the difference. Remember: these are examples, not promises.

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CHAPTER 3 · LESSON 1

Set Saving Goals That Actually Work

A goal turns “I should save” into “I need ₱1,500 this payday for my laptop.” That small change makes saving much easier.

PICTURE 4 **I-P-O-N: the saving recipe**

I

Identify your goal

Laptop for school, ₱30,000, by next September.

P

Pay yourself first

Move ₱1,500 to savings every 15th and 30th — before spending.

O

Open the right place

A separate savings account you don’t carry a card for.

N

No-touch rules

“I only withdraw for the laptop or a real emergency.”

PUT TOGETHER:

A clear goal, saved first, in a separate place, protected by rules — that’s ipon that grows.

Each letter fixes one reason savings usually fail: no goal, saving last, easy access, and no rules.

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Make every goal clear

Part	Question	Example
What	What exactly is it for?	A laptop for school
How much	How much will it cost?	₱30,000
By when	What date do you need it?	In 10 months
Per payday	How much each payday?	₱30,000 ÷ 20 paydays = ₱1,500

Round up and add a little

Prices may rise before you buy. Add about 10% to your goal for long goals (₱30,000 becomes ₱33,000), especially when inflation is high.

Example goals board

Goal	Amount	Months	Per month	Per cutoff
Emergency fund (start)	₱10,000	5	₱2,000	₱1,000
New phone	₱12,000	12	₱1,000	₱500
Christmas gifts	₱6,000	12	₱500	₱250
Family trip	₱24,000	12	₱2,000	₱1,000

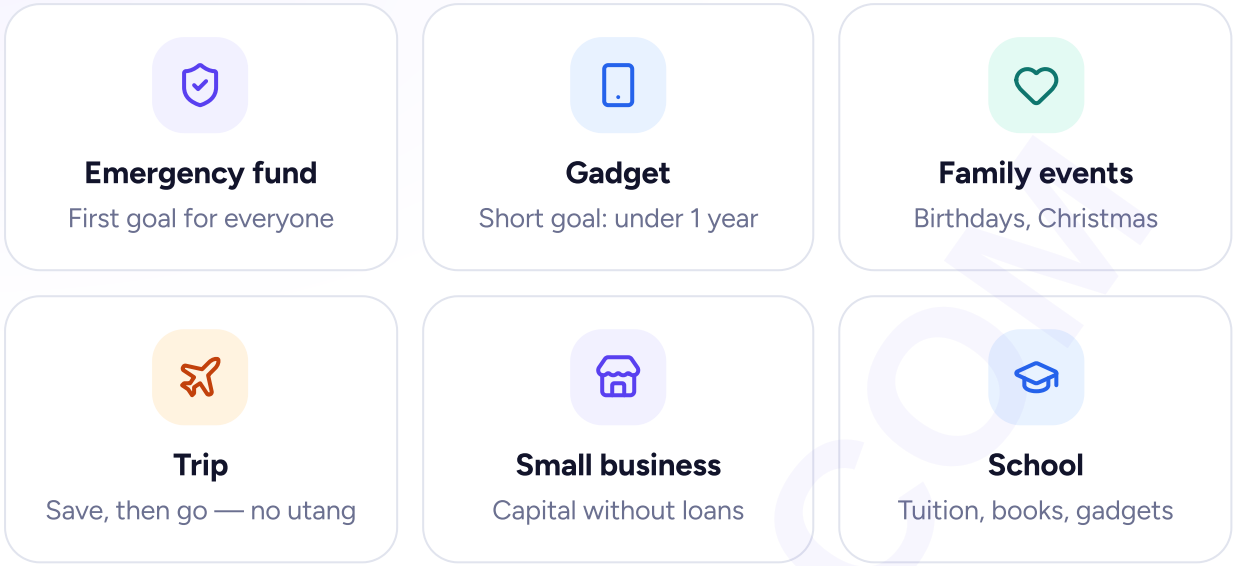
Made-up numbers. Start with one or two goals; add more when your budget allows.

Emergency fund first

If you have no savings at all, make your first goal a small emergency fund (even ₱5,000–₱10,000). It protects your other goals from being emptied by surprises. Book 3 explains how big it should become.

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PICTURE 5 **Common Filipino saving goals**



Give each goal its own name. Named goals are harder to “borrow” from.

QUICK RECAP

I-P-O-N: Identify your goal, Pay yourself first, Open the right place, No-touch rules. Make each goal clear: what, how much, by when, and per payday. Add about 10% for rising prices. Start with a small emergency fund, then add other named goals.

TRY IT NOW

Write your first goal

1. Write what, how much and by when.
2. Count the paydays until then.
3. Divide to find your per-payday amount.

Key takeaways

- A clear goal makes saving easier.
- What, how much, by when, per payday.
- Add a little for rising prices.

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Emergency fund first.

Quiz: 3 quick questions

1. Your goal is ₱12,000 in 12 months, paid twice a month. How much per payday?

A ₱500
B ₱1,000
C ₱12,000

2. In I-P-O-N, what does "N" stand for?

A No-touch rules
B Next month
C New phone

3. If you have no savings yet, which goal should come first?

A A small emergency fund
B A vacation abroad
C The newest phone

Answers

1. **A. ₱500** — ₱12,000 ÷ 24 paydays = ₱500.
2. **A. No-touch rules** — Rules protect savings from being spent.
3. **A. A small emergency fund** — It protects all your other goals.

PRACTICE TASK

Your goals board

Make a goals board with up to three goals: name, amount, date, per month and per cutoff. Use the ToolsKo Savings Goal Calculator to check your numbers. Put the board where you'll see it every payday.

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CHAPTER 4 · LESSON 2

Pay Yourself First — on Autopilot

Willpower runs out. Systems don't. Set up saving once, and let it happen every payday without thinking.

New word: autopilot saving

Autopilot saving means your savings move by themselves on payday — through an automatic transfer, a salary split or a fixed habit. It's like a rice cooker: you set it once, and it cooks while you do other things.

Ways to save automatically

Method	How it works	Good for
Auto-transfer	Your bank or app moves a fixed amount to savings every 15th and 30th	Anyone paid through a bank
Salary split	Ask HR if part of your pay can go to a different account	Employees
Auto-debit to MP2	Some employers or banks can send your MP2 savings regularly	Pag-IBIG members
Daily round-up	Round up every spend (₱87 → ₱100) and save the difference	E-wallet users
Nightly habit	Every night, move a fixed small amount (₱20–₱50) to savings	Daily earners, students

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Set it up in 4 steps

1. **Open a separate savings account**
   Different from your spending account — ideally at a different bank or app.

2. **Pick the amount from your budget**
   Use your per-payday goal numbers from Chapter 3.

3. **Schedule it for payday**
   Same day your salary arrives, not days later.

4. **Check once a month**
   Make sure it ran. Celebrate the growing balance.

Ipon challenges (for extra motivation)

Challenge	How it works	Result
52-week challenge	Save ₱10 in week 1, ₱20 in week 2… up to ₱520 in week 52	₱13,780 in a year
₱50 a day	Save ₱50 every day	₱18,250 in a year
₱20 bill rule	Every ₱20 bill you receive goes to savings	Depends on your cash habits
Save your raise	When your pay goes up, save half of the increase	Lifestyle grows slower than savings

Windfalls: the 13th month and bonuses

A **windfall** is extra money you didn't plan on every month — 13th month pay, bonuses, cash gifts, a tax refund. Decide before it arrives: for example, 50% savings, 30% planned spending (like Christmas), 20% fun.

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PICTURE 6 **Save last vs save first**

SAVE LAST

"Kung may matira"

- Payday → spend → bills
- Save what's left
- Usually ₱0 left
- Goals keep moving

SAVE FIRST

Pay yourself first

- Payday → savings move automatically
- Then bills and needs
- Then wants with what's left
- Goals reached on time

The order changes everything. Saving first makes spending adjust to savings — not the other way around.

QUICK RECAP

Autopilot saving moves money to savings by itself on payday: auto-transfers, salary splits, auto-debit to MP2, round-ups or a nightly habit. Use a separate account, schedule it for payday, and check monthly. Ipon challenges add motivation. Decide how to split windfalls before they arrive.

TRY IT NOW

Turn on autopilot

1. Open or choose a separate savings account.
2. Schedule an automatic transfer for your next payday.
3. Write your windfall split for your next 13th month or bonus.

Key takeaways

- Systems beat willpower.
- Save on payday, automatically.
- Separate account = less temptation.

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Plan windfalls before they arrive.

Quiz: 3 quick questions

1. How much do you save in the 52-week challenge?

A ₱13,780
B ₱5,200
C ₱520

2. When should automatic savings move?

A On payday, before spending
B At the end of the month
C Only when you remember

3. What is a windfall?

A Extra money like a 13th month or bonus
B A strong wind
C A bank fee

Answers

1. **A. ₱13,780** — ₱10 + ₱20 + … + ₱520 = ₱13,780.
2. **A. On payday, before spending** — First, not last.
3. **A. Extra money like a 13th month or bonus** — Plan it before it arrives so it doesn't disappear.

PRACTICE TASK

One month on autopilot

Run your automatic savings for one full month. On the last day, write the total saved and one thing that made it easier or harder. Adjust the amount up or down by a little if needed.

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CHAPTER 5 · LESSON 3

Find More Pesos to Save (Without Feeling Deprived)

Cutting everything fun doesn't last. Cutting what you don't really care about does.

The best savings come from spending less on things that don't make you happier. Start with the biggest costs first — a small change there beats skipping a hundred small treats.

Big savings first

Area	Ideas	Possible monthly savings
Food	Bring baon 3 days a week; cook in batches; plan meals before you shop	₱1,000–₱2,500
Transport	Compare jeep, bus, train and ride-hailing; share rides; walk short trips	₱500–₱1,500
Load and internet	Choose a plan that matches your real use; use Wi-Fi at home	₱200–₱600
Subscriptions	Keep one streaming app at a time; cancel unused ones	₱150–₱500
Electricity	Unplug idle chargers; use a fan; set the aircon to 25°C	₱200–₱800
Shopping	Use a wish list and the 24-hour rule; compare unit prices	₱500+

Made-up ranges for ideas only. Your savings depend on your habits and prices where you live.

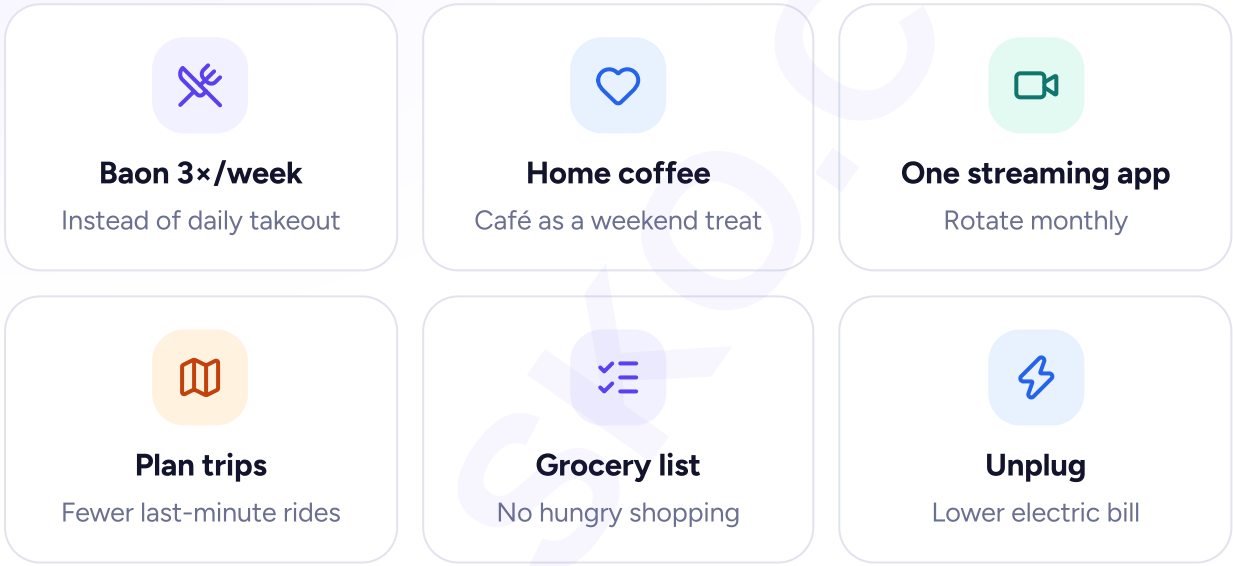
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Keep what you love

Make a list of your top 3 “happy spends” (for example: weekend milk tea with friends, one streaming app, a monthly date). Keep those. Cut the things you wouldn’t miss.

Simple swaps

PICTURE 7 **Small swaps, real savings**



A swap keeps the good part (coffee, shows, food) and drops the expensive part.

Earn a little more

Saving has a limit — you can only cut so much. Earning more has more room. Ideas: sell things you no longer use, offer a skill you already have (tutoring, design, baking), or take on a small side hustle. The Make Money Online series (adults 18+) explains how to do it safely.

Don’t “save” by skipping needs

Skipping meals, medicine, check-ups or your children’s school needs is not saving — it creates bigger costs later. Cut wants and waste first.

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Move the savings right away

When you save ₱150 by bringing baon, move that ₱150 to savings that day. Otherwise it quietly becomes spending money again.

QUICK RECAP

Start with the biggest costs: food, transport, load, subscriptions, electricity and shopping. Keep your top 3 happy spends and cut what you wouldn't miss. Use small swaps. Earning a little more adds room. Never "save" by skipping needs, and move every saved peso to savings right away.

TRY IT NOW

Find ₱1,000

1. List your 5 biggest expenses from Book 1's tracking.
2. Write one swap or cut for each.
3. Add them up — aim for ₱1,000 a month to add to savings.

Key takeaways

- Big costs first.
- Keep your happy spends.
- Swaps beat sacrifices.
- Move saved pesos right away.

Quiz: 3 quick questions

1. Where do the biggest savings usually come from?

A Big costs like food and transport

B Skipping one candy a month

C Skipping medicine

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2. What should you do with ₱150 saved by bringing baon?

A Move it to savings that day

B Spend it on something else

C Forget about it

3. Which is NOT a good way to save?

A Skipping needed medicine

B Cancelling an unused subscription

C Using a grocery list

Answers

1. **A. Big costs like food and transport** — Small changes in big costs save the most.
2. **A. Move it to savings that day** — Otherwise it turns back into spending money.
3. **A. Skipping needed medicine** — Skipping needs leads to bigger costs later.

PRACTICE TASK

Your swap list

Write 5 swaps you will try this month and the estimated savings for each. At the end of the month, write how much you actually saved and moved to your ipon.

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CHAPTER 6 · LESSON 4

Where to Keep Your Savings

The right place for savings depends on when you'll need the money. Safe and easy to reach for soon; better earnings for later.

Your main choices

Place	Good for	Things to know
Alkansya / cash at home	Coins and very small amounts	No interest, no insurance; can be lost or stolen. Deposit it often
Basic deposit account (bank)	First bank account, small savers	Opening ₱100 or less, no maintaining balance, no dormancy charges, up to ₱50,000
Regular or digital bank savings	Emergency fund, short goals	Easy to withdraw; PDIC-insured up to ₱1,000,000 per depositor, per bank; interest taxed 20%
Time deposit	Money you won't touch for months	Locked for a fixed term; early withdrawal may cost you interest; interest taxed 20%
Pag-IBIG MP2	Goals 5+ years away	Minimum ₱500 per payment; 5-year maturity; dividends tax-free; savings government-guaranteed but dividend rate changes yearly (7.12% for 2025)
Paluwagan	Groups you trust deeply	Informal; no interest, no insurance, no law protecting you if someone stops paying

Checked November 21, 2026. Read each account's terms and fees before opening.

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New word: digital bank

A **digital bank** is a bank that works mostly through an app, without branches. Licensed digital banks in the Philippines are regulated by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, and deposits are PDIC-insured like other banks. They often pay higher interest than traditional savings accounts — but rates and promos change, so check often.

Match the place to the goal

PICTURE 8 **Match your savings to your timeline**



Money you might need tomorrow must be easy to reach. Money for years from now can be locked to earn more.

Before you open any account

1. **Check it's real**
   Banks: look for the PDIC sign and the BSP license. Pag-IBIG: use only the official website, app or branches.

2. **Read the fees**
   Maintaining balance, below-balance fees, dormancy fees, transfer fees.

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3 **Know how to withdraw**

How fast? Any penalty? Where?

4 **Keep the PDIC limit in mind**

If you ever save more than ₱1,000,000, spread it across different banks.

Paluwagan: if you join one

A paluwagan works only when every member keeps paying. Join only with people you know well, keep the group small, write down the schedule and amounts, and never put in money you can't afford to lose. It is not insured.

QUICK RECAP

Keep only small amounts at home. A basic deposit account is an easy first account (₱100 or less to open, no maintaining balance, up to ₱50,000). Bank and digital bank savings are PDIC-insured up to ₱1,000,000 and best for money you may need soon; their interest is taxed 20%. Time deposits lock money for a term. MP2 suits 5+ year goals for Pag-IBIG members: tax-free dividends, government-guaranteed savings, rate changes yearly. Paluwagan is informal and uninsured.

TRY IT NOW

Choose your places

1. For each goal on your board, write when you need the money.
2. Pick a place for each using the timeline.
3. Check the fees and withdrawal rules before opening.

Key takeaways

- Soon = easy to reach; later = can earn more.
- Bank deposits are PDIC-insured up to ₱1,000,000.
- MP2: 5 years, tax-free dividends, members only.

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Paluwagan is not insured.

Quiz: 3 quick questions

1. What is the most you can open a basic deposit account with?

A ₱100
B ₱10,000
C ₱1,000,000

2. Which is best for an emergency fund you may need tomorrow?

A A PDIC-insured savings account
B A 5-year MP2
C A paluwagan

3. What is true about MP2 dividends?

A They are tax-free, but the rate changes every year
B They are always exactly 7.12%
C They are taxed 20%

Answers

1. **A. ₱100** — BSP rules: opening amount of ₱100 or less.
2. **A. A PDIC-insured savings account** — Emergency money must be safe and easy to reach.
3. **A. They are tax-free, but the rate changes every year** — 7.12% was the 2025 rate; future rates may differ.

PRACTICE TASK

Open (or fix) one account

Open one separate savings account for your first goal — or, if you already have one, check its fees and interest and decide if it still fits. Students: ask a parent or guardian to help open a kids or teen account.

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CHAPTER 7 · LESSON 5

Protect Your Ipon: Temptation, Pressure and Scams

Building savings is half the job. Keeping them is the other half.

Make savings hard to spend

- **Don't carry the card** of your savings account. Leave it at home or don't request one.
- **Hide the app** from your home screen, or use a different bank from your spending account.
- **Name your accounts** by goal ("Laptop Fund," "Emergency"). It feels wrong to spend "Laptop Fund" on a sale.
- **Use the 24-hour rule** before withdrawing for anything that isn't the goal or a real emergency.

Family and friends asking for money

In many Filipino families, people know who has savings. Requests will come. Book 1 explained the **family support line** — a fixed amount you can give each month. Your savings are different: they have a job already. It's okay to say, "I can help with ₱____ from my monthly budget, but my savings are for ____."

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Spot savings scams

PICTURE 9 **Savings scam traffic light**



Safe

PDIC-insured banks; Pag-IBIG MP2 through the official website, app or branch; rates that match what banks and Pag-IBIG publish.

Check first

New apps with high promo rates; "investment" offers from friends; any product you don't fully understand. Check the BSP or SEC lists first.

Stop

"Guaranteed" 10–30% a month; "double your money"; rewards for recruiting others; pressure to decide today; payment to a personal GCash account.

If an offer promises high returns with no risk, it is almost always a scam.

"Too good to be true" usually is

Real savings options pay a few percent a **year**, not a month. Offers that promise big monthly returns, pay you for recruiting others, or ask you to send money to a personal account are classic scams. Before investing anywhere, check if the company is registered and allowed to sell investments with the SEC.

Protect your accounts

Turn on two-factor login, use a strong PIN that isn't your birthday, and never share your OTP or MPIN — not even with "bank staff" who call you.

When you do use your savings

Using savings for its goal is success, not failure. If you withdraw for a real emergency, restart saving next payday — no guilt, just a new start.

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QUICK RECAP

Make savings hard to spend: no card, hidden app, goal names, and the 24-hour rule. Your savings already have jobs — help family from your family support line. Avoid scams promising guaranteed high monthly returns, recruitment rewards or payment to personal accounts; check the SEC before investing. Protect accounts with two-factor login and never share your OTP.

TRY IT NOW

Lock it down

1. Rename your savings account by its goal.
2. Remove the savings app from your home screen (or leave the card at home).
3. Turn on two-factor login in your bank apps.

Key takeaways

- Make savings hard to reach.
- Savings have jobs; family help comes from the budget.
- High monthly “guarantees” = scam.
- Never share your OTP.

Quiz: 3 quick questions

1. An offer promises 20% a month, guaranteed. What is it most likely?

A A scam
B A normal savings account
C Pag-IBIG MP2

2. Why name your savings account “Laptop Fund”?

A It makes spending it on other things feel wrong
B Banks require it
C It earns more interest

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3. Where should money for family requests usually come from?

A Your family support line in the budget

B Your emergency fund for wants

C A new loan

Answers

1. **A. A scam** — Real savings pay a few percent a year.
2. **A. It makes spending it on other things feel wrong** — Named goals are harder to "borrow" from.
3. **A. Your family support line in the budget** — Savings already have jobs.

PRACTICE TASK

Your "no" script

Write a kind, short script for when someone asks to borrow from your savings, and a short list of red flags for investment offers. Practice both out loud.

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CHAPTER 8

Your 14-Day Saving Starter Plan

About 15–20 minutes a day for two weeks. By day 14 you will have a goal, a savings account on autopilot and your first ipon.

You can start any day. If payday falls within these 14 days, use it to test your automatic transfer.

PICTURE 10 **The 14-day saving plan**



Goal, money, place, autopilot, review. After day 14, your saving runs mostly by itself.

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Day	Task (about 15–20 minutes)	Done?
1	Write your first goal: what, how much, by when, per payday.	☐
2	Set aside your first ₱100 (or ₱20) in a separate place.	☐
3	Check your savings account's interest rate and fees.	☐
4	List your 5 biggest expenses and one swap for each.	☐
5	Cancel one subscription you don't use.	☐
6	Bring baon or skip one paid ride. Move the savings.	☐
7	Match each goal to a place (savings, time deposit, MP2).	☐
8	Open or fix one separate savings account.	☐
9	Name the account by its goal.	☐
10	Schedule an automatic transfer for payday.	☐
11	Write your windfall split for the 13th month or bonuses.	☐
12	Write your no-touch rules and your "no" script.	☐
13	Check: did every saved peso move to savings?	☐
14	Write your total saved. Celebrate — cheaply!	☐

Bonus exercises

1 **Start the 52-week challenge**

Save ₱10 this week and add ₱10 more each week.

2 **Visit the MP2 page**

If you're a Pag-IBIG member, read the MP2 FAQ on the official website and decide if it fits a 5-year goal.

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3 **Compare two banks**

Write the interest rate, fees and PDIC status of two banks or digital banks.

4 **Teach someone**

Explain I-P-O-N to a family member. Teaching helps you remember.

Start small, grow slowly

If your goal feels too big, cut the amount in half and keep the habit. Increase your savings by ₱100 or 1% every month. Small, steady growth beats a big start that stops.

QUICK RECAP

Days 1–3: goal and first ₱100. Days 4–6: find more pesos. Days 7–9: choose and open the right place. Days 10–12: autopilot and no-touch rules. Days 13–14: review and celebrate.

TRY IT NOW

Start today

1. Copy the 14-day table into your phone or notebook.
2. Do Day 1 now.
3. Set a daily reminder.

Key takeaways

- Goal first, then money, then place.
- Autopilot keeps it going.
- Rules protect it.
- Small, steady increases.

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Quiz: 3 quick questions

1. What do you do on day 10?

A Schedule an automatic transfer for payday
B Buy something on sale
C Close your savings account

2. Your goal feels too big. What should you do?

A Cut the amount in half and keep the habit
B Give up
C Borrow to reach it

3. How can you grow your savings over time?

A Add ₱100 or 1% each month
B Save only once a year
C Wait for a big windfall

Answers

1. **A. Schedule an automatic transfer for payday** — Autopilot makes saving last.
2. **A. Cut the amount in half and keep the habit** — The habit matters more than the amount.
3. **A. Add ₱100 or 1% each month** — Small, steady increases add up.

PRACTICE TASK

Complete the 14 days

Follow the plan and tick each box. On day 14, write your goal, how much you saved, where it is, and the one habit that helped the most.

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CHAPTER 9

Common Saving Mistakes (and Easy Fixes)

Most people who “can’t save” are making one of a few common mistakes. All of them have easy fixes.

Check your habits against this table.

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Mistake	Why it hurts	Easy fix
Saving whatever is left	Usually nothing is left	Pay yourself first on payday
No clear goal	Easy to spend “just savings”	Name each goal with an amount and date
Savings in the spending account	It gets spent by accident	Use a separate account
All savings at home	No interest, no insurance, easy to borrow	Bank account, PDIC-insured
Locking emergency money	Can’t reach it when needed	Emergency fund in an easy-to-withdraw account
Chasing very high returns	Scams and big losses	Few percent a year is normal; check the SEC
Starting too big	You quit after a month	Start small and grow 1% a month
Spending the whole 13th month	January becomes hard	Split it before it arrives
Lending savings to everyone	Goals never finish	Use the family support line
Forgetting inflation	Long-term savings lose value	Match long goals to places that earn more

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PICTURE 11 **Leaky vs strong ipon**

LEAKY IPON

Always starting over

- Saves last, no goal
- Same account as spending
- Lends to anyone who asks
- Chases “20% a month” offers

STRONG IPON

Grows every month

- Saves first, with named goals
- Separate, PDIC-insured account
- Family help from the budget
- Normal rates, checked sources

A strong ipon isn’t about earning more — it’s about a few good habits repeated every payday.

The monthly saving check

Once a month, ask: “Did my automatic savings run?”, “Did I touch my savings for anything outside its goal?”, and “Can I add ₱100 or 1% next month?” Two yeses and one “yes, I can” mean you’re on track.

QUICK RECAP

Common mistakes: saving last, no goal, savings in the spending account, all savings at home, locking emergency money, chasing high returns, starting too big, spending the whole 13th month, lending savings to everyone, and forgetting inflation. Each has an easy fix.

TRY IT NOW

Audit your ipon

1. Tick every mistake you make.
2. Fix two this week.
3. Do the monthly saving check on the last day of the month.

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Key takeaways

- Save first, with goals.
- Separate, insured accounts.
- Emergency money must be reachable.
- Ignore “too good to be true.”

Quiz: 3 quick questions

1. Why keep savings in a separate account?

A So they don’t get spent by accident

B Because it’s required by law

C To pay more fees

2. Where should emergency money NOT be?

A Locked in a 5-year account

B In an easy-to-withdraw savings account

C In a PDIC-insured bank

3. You quit saving after one month because the amount was too big. Fix?

A Start smaller and grow 1% a month

B Never save again

C Borrow to save

Answers

1. **A. So they don’t get spent by accident** — Separation protects savings.
2. **A. Locked in a 5-year account** — You must reach it quickly.
3. **A. Start smaller and grow 1% a month** — Small habits last longer.

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PRACTICE TASK

Your saving rules

Write 5 personal saving rules (for example, “Save first every payday”, “Every goal has a name and date”, “No card for my savings account”, “No offer above a few percent a year without checking the SEC”, “Half of every bonus goes to savings”). Keep them in your phone.

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CHAPTER 10

Real-Life Examples: Ipon That Grew

These five example stories are based on common Filipino saving situations (names are made up). Look for the habits, not the income.

J

Joel, 29

Delivery rider, Caloocan

THE PROBLEM

Daily income, no savings, and a loan every time his motorcycle broke.

WHAT JOEL TYPED

```
Moved ₱50 to a separate digital bank account every night. Named it
“Motor Fund.” Kept no card for it.
```

THE RESULT

About ₱18,000 in a year. Paid a ₱6,500 repair in cash and kept riding.

Lesson: Small, daily, automatic habits add up.

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A

Ana, 17
Senior high student, Cavite

THE PROBLEM

Kept coins in a clay alkansya that her siblings sometimes “borrowed” from.

WHAT ANA TYPED

```
With her mother, opened a teen savings account with ₱100 and no maintaining balance. Deposited her alkansya coins every month and saved ₱100 of her weekly baon.
```

THE RESULT

Saved for her own laptop deposit and learned to read a bank statement.

Lesson: Move coins from the alkansya to a real account often.

L

Liza, 35
Hospital nurse, Cebu

THE PROBLEM

Wanted a house down payment in 6 years but spent most of her 13th month every December.

WHAT LIZA TYPED

```
Opened MP2 through Pag-IBIG’s official site, saved ₱3,000 a month by auto-debit, and decided early: 50% of every 13th month to MP2.
```

THE RESULT

Her MP2 grows every year, and her Christmas spending stays inside a planned amount.

Lesson: Long goals fit long-term places — and windfalls need a plan.

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M

Mang Ben, 52

Jeepney driver, Bulacan

THE PROBLEM

His neighborhood paluwagan collapsed when the organizer stopped paying out.

WHAT MANG BEN TYPED

```
Started a basic deposit account instead and saved ₱100 from every
day's earnings. Joined a new paluwagan only with close family,
with a written schedule.
```

THE RESULT

His savings are insured now, and he no longer depends on one person's honesty.

Lesson: Informal savings carry real risks — keep your main ipon in a bank.

C

Carla, 24

Freelance virtual assistant, Davao

THE PROBLEM

Got a friend's invite to a "guaranteed 15% monthly" investment and almost joined.

WHAT CARLA TYPED

```
Checked the SEC website and found no license to sell investments.
Put the money in a higher-interest digital bank savings account
and started a 1-year time deposit for her goal.
```

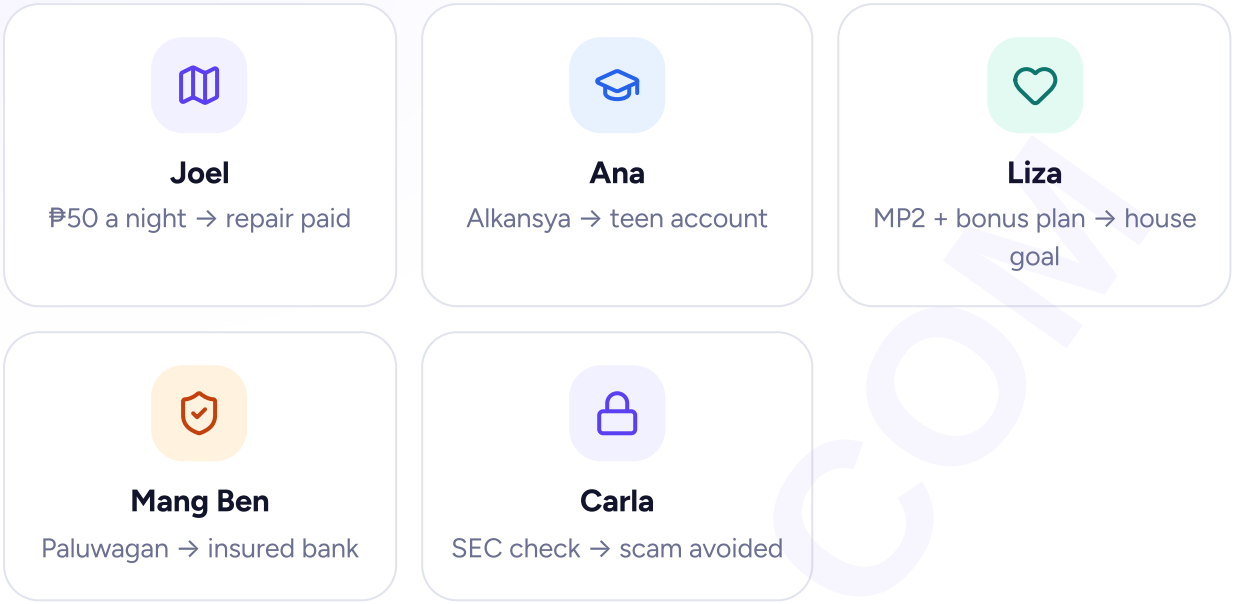
THE RESULT

Weeks later, the scheme stopped paying its members. Her money was safe.

Lesson: Check before you trust — high monthly "guarantees" are red flags.

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PICTURE 12 **Five ipon stories, same habits**



Different incomes, same habits: goals, saving first, the right place, and protection.

What these stories have in common

They each had a reason to save, saved first and regularly, kept savings in a safe place that matched their goal, and protected their ipon from temptation, unsafe groups and scams.

QUICK RECAP

Small nightly savings paid for a repair; a teen account replaced a raided alkansya; MP2 and a 13th month plan built a house fund; a bank replaced a failed paluwagan; and an SEC check avoided a scam.

TRY IT NOW

Your ipon story

1. Pick the story most like you.
2. Copy one habit from it this week.
3. Write how it went after 7 days.

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Key takeaways

- Have a reason.
- Save first and often.
- Use the right, safe place.
- Protect it.

Quiz: 3 quick questions

1. What did Mang Ben do after his paluwagan collapsed?

A Opened a basic deposit account and saved daily

B Stopped saving

C Joined a bigger paluwagan with strangers

2. How did Carla avoid the scam?

A She checked the SEC website first

B She joined quickly

C She asked for a bigger return

3. Why did Liza choose MP2?

A Her goal was 5+ years away

B She needed the money next week

C It has no rules

Answers

1. **A. Opened a basic deposit account and saved daily** — Insured savings don't depend on one person.
2. **A. She checked the SEC website first** — No license to sell investments was a red flag.
3. **A. Her goal was 5+ years away** — Long goals fit long-term places.

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PRACTICE TASK

Your ipon story card

Write your own story card: your goal, how much you save and how often, where you keep it, how you protect it, and what you'll do when you reach it.

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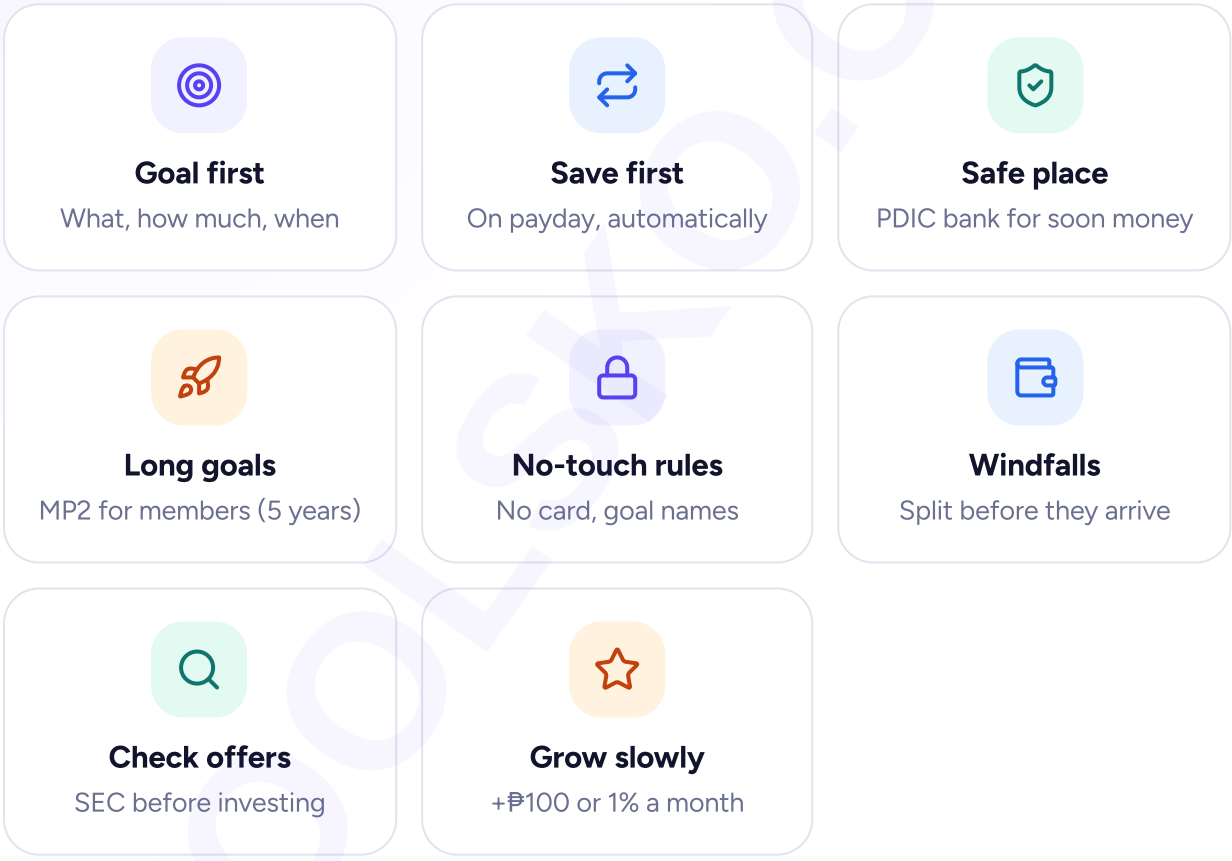
THE END

Quick Summary

Everything important, on one page.

The whole book on one page. Keep it in your phone or wallet.

PICTURE 13 **Cheat sheet: saving in 8 cards**



Eight habits that make any ipon grow — on any income.

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Remember	In one line
The big rule	Save first, save on autopilot, save for a reason.
Recipe	I-P-O-N: Identify your goal, Pay yourself first, Open the right place, No-touch rules.
Goal math	Goal ÷ paydays = save per payday.
Interest	Banks take 20% of interest (not savings); MP2 dividends are tax-free.
Places	Soon money in PDIC-insured banks; 5+ year goals can go to MP2 (members).
Safety	High monthly “guarantees” are scams; check the SEC; never share your OTP.
Always	Start small, grow 1% a month, celebrate progress.

You can save now

You can set clear goals, save automatically, find extra pesos, choose safe places, and protect your ipon. Start your first transfer on your very next payday.

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WHAT'S NEXT

Your Next Learning Path

You finished Book 2. Here is where to go from here.

This is **Book 2** of the **Personal Finance** series. Your first saving goal should be a safety net — the next book shows you exactly how:

PICTURE 14 **Your Personal Finance path**



Budget, save, build a safety net, get free of debt, then grow your money.

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What to do next

Next step	Why
Finish the 14-day plan	A goal, an account and autopilot — the base of every money plan.
Run autopilot for 3 paydays	By the third month, saving feels normal.
Book 3: Emergency Fund Guide	How much to keep, where to keep it and how to rebuild it.
Review your budget (Book 1)	Each month, see if you can add ₱100 or 1% more to savings.
Track it in a sheet	Excel or Google Sheets (Digital Skills Books 2 and 3) can show your progress with a simple chart.

One last tip

Your ipon doesn't need to be big to count. It needs to be regular. Save first, save on autopilot, and give every peso of savings a reason.

Free ToolsKo tools for this book

Put what you learned to work. These tools are free on toolsko.com, need no sign-up, and most work right in your browser.

Savings Goal Calculator
Find how much to save each payday to reach a goal on time.
toolsko.com/savings-goal-calculator ↗

Compound Interest Calculator
See how interest on interest grows your savings over the years.
toolsko.com/compound-interest-calculator ↗

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Simple Interest Calculator

Estimate interest on a time deposit.

toolsko.com/simple-interest-calculator

Inflation Calculator

See how rising prices change what your savings can buy.

toolsko.com/inflation-calculator

Pag-IBIG Contribution Calculator 2026

Check your regular Pag-IBIG savings before you add MP2.

toolsko.com/pag-ibig-contribution-calculator

13th Month Pay Calculator (PH)

Estimate your 13th month so you can split it before it arrives.

toolsko.com/13th-month-calculator

13th Month & Christmas Bonus Spending Plan

Plan your windfall split: savings, gifts and fun.

toolsko.com/christmas-bonus-spending-plan

Discount Calculator

Check if a “sale” really saves you money.

toolsko.com/discount-calculator

Electricity Cost Calculator

Find appliances that make your bill high.

toolsko.com/electricity-cost-calculator

Percentage Calculator

Work out 1% increases and how much of your pay you save.

toolsko.com/percentage-calculator

OFW Padala & Savings Planner

Plan padala and savings together for OFW families.

toolsko.com/ofw-padala-savings-planner

Words to know

Ipon	Savings: money set aside today for the future.

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Alkansya	A coin bank, often made of bamboo, clay or tin.
Pay yourself first	Saving the moment money arrives, before spending.
Autopilot saving	Savings that move automatically on payday.
Interest	Money a bank pays you for keeping your savings there.
Final withholding tax	The 20% tax a bank takes from interest earned (not from savings).
Compound interest	Earning interest on your interest, so savings grow faster over time.
Dividend	A share of earnings paid to members or shareholders, like Pag-IBIG MP2 dividends.
Pag-IBIG MP2	A voluntary 5-year savings program for Pag-IBIG members with tax-free dividends.
Basic deposit account	A simple bank account: ₱100 or less to open, no maintaining balance, up to ₱50,000.
Digital bank	A licensed bank that works mainly through an app.
Time deposit	Savings locked for a fixed term in exchange for interest.
Maturity	The date locked savings can be withdrawn.
Liquidity	How quickly you can get your money.
Windfall	Extra money like a 13th month pay, bonus or cash gift.
Paluwagan	An informal group savings arrangement; not insured.

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Where the facts come from

1. Pag-IBIG Fund declares record dividends for 2025: MP2 7.12%, Regular Savings 6.62% (Manila Bulletin)
2. Pag-IBIG Fund: MP2 Savings FAQ (minimum ₱500, 5-year maturity, tax-free, government-guaranteed)
3. DOF: CMEPA standardizes the 20% tax on interest income — not a tax on savings
4. Banks start uniform 20% final withholding tax on interest income (GMA News)
5. BSP Circular 992 (2018): Framework for basic deposit accounts (ADB Legal Portal copy)
6. Everything you need to know about a basic deposit account (Inquirer)
7. PDIC ₱1 million maximum deposit insurance coverage (Metrobank notice)
8. Deposit insurance and e-wallets (Rappler)
9. Inflation at 7.8% in October 2026 (GMA News, PSA data)

Dividend rates, tax rules, deposit insurance, account rules and inflation figures were checked on November 21, 2026. Interest and dividend rates change often — always check the official website of the bank or agency before you decide. Past dividend rates do not promise future ones. All names and peso amounts in the examples are made up. ToolsKo is not connected to any bank, e-wallet or government agency named in this book. This book is general information, not financial, tax or legal advice. Written by ToolsKo Learn · toolsko.com/learn

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Book 2	**Saving Money — this book**
Book 3	Emergency Fund Guide
Book 4	Debt-Free Roadmap
Book 5	Investing Basics

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