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First Name, first initial + last name, first initial + last 6 digits of their lunch number

Example: If Amy King’s lunch number is 1234567, her computer/wifi username is

Ak234567, and her email address is ak234567@dcsms.org

If for some reason you cannot sign in, here is the transcript.

I HIGHLY RECOMMEND TRYING TO SIGN IN BC I WILL USE MORE LEARN 360 Videos!!!

TRANSCRIPT:

Is your credit score a little punk that keeps you from doing the things you want?

[MUSIC] Or has your good credit score become a gold mine of easy loans?

>> Yee-haw.

>> Or perhaps you don't know what this here credit score doohickey is all about.

[SOUND] [MUSIC] If you're like me, you're wondering how I got here.

Well, it all started with a friendly couple game of poker.

I wanna be clear that gambling is always a bad idea, and everyone is drinking root beer.

[MUSIC] >> [SOUND] I'll raise you $50.

>> Well, I'm feeling pretty lucky.

I'm all in.

>> You ain't got enough.

>> That's alright, I'm gonna get a loan.

>> A loan?

Who would loan to the likes of you?

Everybody.

I got a great credit score.

>> Credit score?

What's a credit score?

[MUSIC] >> A credit score is, well, a score for your credit.

Basically, a few different companies have some really fancy math equations that spit out a score based on how

well you pay back your loans.

Actually, it's based on more than that.

But the end goal is to make an educated guess about how likely it is that you will pay back future loans.

But the end goal is to make an educated guess about how likely it is that you will pay back future loans.

A high score means that other people with similar histories to you [SOUND] tended to pay back their loans.

A low score means people like you had trouble paying back money loaned to them.

This is where a bad credit score can become a little rascal.

A low credit score can effect you in many different ways.

Most obviously, a low score can make it very hard to get a loan for such things as a car, a house, furniture, or

even credit cards.

This makes buying big items very difficult, and will cause your interest rates to be much higher on any loan you do

get.

Beyond that, some landlords will look at your credit to see how likely it is that you will pay your rent.

You may not be allowed to rent from some locations if your credit is bad.

Some employers will even pull your credit report to look at your bill pay history to decide whether to offer you a

job.

A bad credit score can feel like a noose, choking your financial life right out of you.

[MUSIC] >> Hello, I'm Ignatius Jackson, I am a certified public accountant.

I have my own accounting firm, taxes and business activity.

[MUSIC] You should worry about having a good credit score because it's all of your life.

It's gonna determine if you get loans.

It's gonna determine if you get a job, in some cases.

It's gonna determine if you get an apartment that you wanna rent.

There's a lot of factors that go into a credit score.

It's not a simple calculation.

It's not a simple process.

But you typically wanna have like one credit card.

A car loan and a mortgage in order to really have the highest credit score possible.

You wanna have some kind of debt, credit out there that's being utilized to show them that you're responsible with

using credit.

Sometimes it's too late by the time you wanna buy a house to try to build that up, cuz it takes time.

They wanna see you've had credit for a long time, too, that you've had it for a couple of years, and you haven't

had any blemishes.

>> So if I'm hearing you correct, a credit score is basically the same as a credit report.

>> It is important to note that a credit score is different than a credit report.

A credit report is just a list of loans and your payment histories.

Employers only use the credit report, but almost all loans and credit card companies use the credit score.

The most common credit score is known as your FICO.

>> You mean Fido like the dog?

>> No, FICO, F-I-C-O.

>> What's that mean?

>> FICO is just an uncreative shortening of the companies name that came up with the score.

Fair Isaac and Company.

>> How'd you do that?

>> Do what?

>> Make your voice in the air like, are you a vampire?

>> Nah, I think you mean ventriloquist.

>> Yeah, ventriloquist.

>> The score they calculated is used by most lenders, and it is the one you probably have heard of the most.

Fair Isaac doesn't say exactly how their FICO scores are calculated, but they do give some general ideas.

If you you want a high credit score, you can learn how to get there by seeing what is most important in their

calculations.

Over 65% of your credit score is made up of two simple measures.

The first is, how well you have done in paying back loans in the past.

The second is the total amount that you owe on your loans.

You have complete control over both of these factors.

You can increase your credit score simply by paying your payments on time.

And keeping your loan levels low, especially on credit cards.

For example, if your credit cards are maxed out, you can raise your credit score by paying those down.

If you have had trouble paying in the past, you still want to keep up with payments now.

Your credit score will get better as the number of on-time payments increases compared to those where you were

late.

[MUSIC] >> Ways that you can improve your credit score.

You have to get a loan or a credit card, or something.

That you really start out at a certain level, and in order to increase it, you have to take on debt.

There's just no other way around it.

I typically recommend to people to get one credit card, okay.

And with a reasonable limit, only buy a few things with it on a monthly basis.

And keep the balance in that credit card less than 10% of your available credit.

That's gonna give you the highest credit score out of any other, [LAUGH] anything else.

>> All right then partner, what's my credit score?

>> Your score is zero.

>> It ain't zero.

>> No, no, you don't have a score yet.

You haven't established any of your credit.

>> Well, how do I establish credit?

>> You get a credit card.

>> Over 40% of credit card owners get into debt buying things that they don't need.

This credit card debt is on average, about $16,000 for each household in the US.

So back to the credit score.

In a perfect world, you could use a credit card to buy necessities.

Pay it off every month, and that would increase your credit score.

>> Yeah, this ain't a perfect world.

>> Yeah, you're proof of that.

>> History has taught us that credit cards are often used to borrow more money than can be paid back.

This harms your credit score by increasing the amount owed.

Remember, 30% of your FICO score.

And if you're paying late, it harms the payment history, 35% of your FICO score.

In short, if you can use a credit card responsibly by paying it off every month, it can increase your score.

If you're tempted to use it to buy too much and not pay it back in time, it is probably better for your credit score to

avoid credit cards completely.

So I bet you're wondering, what is this got to do with you?

[MUSIC] Many people mess up their credit, feel defeated, and then just start ignoring their credit scores.

They may think that something that takes years to fix is probably not worth fixing.

But credit scores are things that stay with you for life.

And there is no reason to leave them low.

>> What are you here?

>> There's supposed to be three of us.

>> Three of what?

>> The good, the bad and the ugly.

>> I get it, you're the ugly one.

>> You're the ugly one. [MUSIC] >> In fact, there are tons of reasons to raise them.

You may not need a car loan now but that may change in a year or two.

You may think that you wanna apply at an apartment that check credit score, but plans and lives change.

And you will want that high credit score when the time comes.

And the last thing you want to do is be denied a job because your credit report is full of late payments.

Look towards your future and you can see many reasons to start working on your credit now.

It isn't too hard.

You just need to do a few things well over and over again.

To start raising your credit score, you need to pay all your loan payments on time.

Pay down your revolving credit balances, such as credit cards and department store cards.

If you can't resist the temptation of a credit card, either cancel it or call and get the limit lowered to something you

can pay back every month.

If you do these things, your credit will slowly raise.

If you really messed up in the past, then you can still start working on your credit.

Most old debt and delinquencies do fall off of your credit report, and you will want to have years of good money

management when they finally do.

Just keep it up and your score will increase.

[MUSIC] >> Even if you don't work, you can still build your credit by being put onto application.

And they basically will just utilize your household income from the two of you to qualify you from income

perspective.

But you're still getting the benefit of the good credit rating.

If you're not married yet, and you're with a boyfriend or a girlfriend.

I would definitely just try to keep those finances separate for as long as possible.

It can be a nightmare to separate things if things don't work out.

It's just as bad as going through a divorce in a lot of cases just because of how difficult it is to kind of separate

those things.

And you obviously have the negative aspects where the other person could be rude and just kind of try to ruin

your credit.

I mean it hurts them as well by not paying stuff, but, I think they can just be very vindictive towards you.

Yeah, I would definitely try to keep things separate until you're actually married.

[MUSIC] >> Yeah, yeah, hold on a second, it's my turn.

[MUSIC] [SOUND] [MUSIC] >> There's a lot of components into it, unfortunately.

It's not a simple process but you can have good credit by doing just a few simple things.

>> Credit scores do have some hidden math calculations in the background, but the basics are simple.

Pay your loan payments on time and try to keep your debt low.

Keep some credit accounts if you can, but ditch them if they make you fail on your on-time payments.

With these few items, you are on your way to a higher credit score.

This is something your future self will thank you for.

[MUSIC]