

Social Security **POWR** Crib Sheet

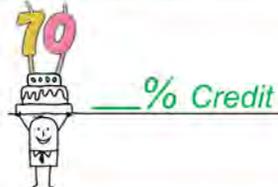
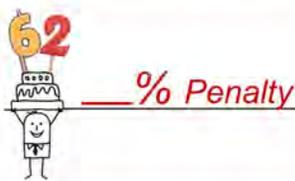


If your year of birth was...

1943-1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960+
-----------	------	------	------	------	------	-------

Your _____ is...

66	66 + 2 mos.	66 + 4 mos.	66 + 6 mos.	66 + 8 mos.	66 + 10 mos.	67
----	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	--------------	----



SOCIAL SECURITY

How to Apply

Online: ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/
 By Phone: 1-800-772-1213
 In Person: Visit your local Social Security office. (Call first to make an appointment.)

USA

WORKING WHILE COLLECTING

Earnings Limit

\$ _____

When Under Full Retirement Age

\$1 of benefits withheld for every

\$2 of earnings above the limit

Earnings Limit

\$ _____

Year You Reach Full Retirement Age

\$1 of benefits withheld for every

\$3 of earnings above the limit

Earnings Limit

\$ _____

Month You Reach Full Retirement Age

From this point and beyond no reduction in benefits regardless of earnings

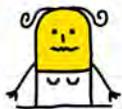
Benefits for Spouses and Divorced Spouses



Divorced spouses can collect if four conditions are met:

- Marriage lasted at least 10 years
- Ex-spouse is entitled to retirement or disability benefit
- Both you and ex-spouse must be age 62 or older
- You are unmarried

A Surviving Spouse Receives the Greater of...



His or Her Own Retirement Benefit



_____ % of the Deceased Spouse's Benefit



NOT _____

Social Security Tax Thresholds

Single Tax Payer



	%	\$34,000
\$25,000	%	
	0%	

Married Filing Jointly



	%	\$44,000
\$32,000	%	
	0%	

Provisional Income (Included) = gross income + tax-free interest + 50% of Social Security

Social Security **POWR** Q&A

- 1 If you were born prior to 1955, your full retirement age is _____. If you were born after 1959, your full retirement age is _____. If you were born between 1955 and 1959, your full retirement age will be between age 66 and 67.
- 2 Retirement benefits can be started anytime between the ages of _____ and _____. If you start benefits before your full retirement age you will receive a _____ benefit.
- 3 When you wait until your full retirement age to start collecting, you will receive your _____ retirement benefit.
- 4 For each year that you delay the start of your retirement benefit beyond your full retirement age, your benefit will receive an _____ percent credit annually until age 70.
- 5 A married person can claim spousal benefits regardless of whether or not that person ever worked. To do this the following three conditions must be met:
 - The person claiming the benefit must be at least age _____.
 - That person's partner must be eligible to receive a Social Security retirement benefit (or disability benefit).
 - And, that person's partner must have already filed for his or her retirement benefit.
- 6 If a spouse who has never worked waits until full retirement age he or she will receive _____ percent of the spouse's benefit retirement benefit.
- 7 If a spouse who has worked starts collecting his or her own retirement benefit before reaching full retirement age, she is eligible to receive an "excess spousal" benefit which will be calculated as 50 percent of the spouse's benefit minus _____ percent of the spouse's own full retirement benefit.
- 8 Depending on his or her full retirement age, If a spouse applies at the earliest age of 62, his or her spousal benefit will be reduced by as much as _____ percent.
- 9 Because spousal benefits _____ receive an increase by a delayed retirement credit, there is _____ reason to wait until after reaching full retirement age to collect those benefits.

Social Security **POWR** Q&A

- 10** *File and suspend* was a strategy for married couples to maximize benefits. As part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, Congress _____ the loophole that made file and suspend possible.
- 11** Divorced spouses who meet certain conditions (see #15 below) can _____ collect spousal benefits based on the ex-spouse's earnings record at the same time. (Spouses who are currently married are prohibited from both collecting spousal benefits at the same time.)
- 12** Divorced spouses who meet certain conditions can collect spousal benefits based on the ex-spouse's earnings record even if the ex-spouse has not yet _____. Note that you must have been divorced for at least two years in addition to meeting the other conditions (see #15 below).
- 13** Conditions: Your marriage lasted 10 years or longer. Your ex-spouse must be entitled to a Social Security retirement or disability benefit. Both you and your ex-spouse must be at least age 62. You are _____.
- 14** Widows and widowers can get _____ percent of a deceased spouse's benefit compared to the maximum of _____ percent of excess spousal benefits while both spouses are alive.
- 15** The survivor benefit can be collected as early as age _____, but the amount of the benefit will be reduced if it is taken prior to the survivor reaching his or her full retirement age.
- 16** The _____ survivor benefit would be received when the deceased spouse had started his or her retirement benefit at the earliest age of 62, while the surviving spouse started the survivor benefit at the earliest possible age of 60.
- 17** The largest survivor benefit would be received when the deceased spouse delayed starting his or her retirement benefit until age _____, while the surviving spouse started the survivor benefit at his or her own full retirement age.

Social Security **POWR** Q&A

Answer Key

1. **66; 67**
2. **62; 70; reduced**
3. **full**
4. **8**
5. **62**
6. **50**
7. **100**
8. **35**
9. **do not; no**
10. **eliminated**
11. **each**
12. **filed for benefits**
13. **unmarried**
14. **100; 50**
15. **60**
16. **smallest**
17. **70**

RETIREMENT QUIZ

1. How worried are you about the possibility of experiencing a future reduction in your standard of living at some point during your retirement?

Not worried (0 points) ____ Somewhat Worried (1 point) ____ Very Worried (2 points) ____

2. Are you or will you be relying on yields from risky securities for a portion of your retirement income?

No (0 points) ____ Yes (1 point) ____ I am not sure. (2 points) ____

3. Have a large portion of your retirement funds experienced yields of 3% or less over the past five years?

No (0 points) ____ Yes (1 point) ____ I am not sure. (2 points) ____

4. Are you worried that government spending could lead to increased tax rates, inflation, or both?

No (0 points) ____ Yes (1 point) ____

5. Is more than 75% of your retirement savings in a traditional tax-deferred IRA, 401k, TSP or other accounts where 100% of the withdrawals will be subject to income taxes?

No (0 points) ____ Yes (1 point) ____ I am not sure. (2 points) ____

6. Are you or will you be forced to pay Medicare IRMMA premium surcharges based on your current or future retirement income?

No (0 points) ____ Yes (1 point) ____ I am not sure. (2 points) ____

7. If you are not yet covered by Medicare, do you understand the program's three enrollment periods and how to avoid possible penalties and coverage delays?

Yes (0 points) ____ No (1 point) ____ I am currently on Medicare

8. Have you carefully considered the potential advantages of converting your traditional IRA, 401k, TSP or other tax-deferred plan to a Roth account and if so, did you factor into any conversion decision potential of future tax savings relating to Social Security benefits?

Yes (0 points) ____ No (1 point) ____

9. Have you consider potential opportunities for increasing after-tax spendable retirement income by the proper timing of withdrawals from various accounts, Roth conversions or the use of a Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (H.C.E.M.)?

Yes (0 points) ____ No (1 point) ____

10. Are you familiar with how a Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (H.C.E.M.) can be used to purchase a new home for the purpose of downsizing, or to help pay for long term care, protect a retirement portfolio or potentially increase the after-tax lifetime of Social Security benefits?

Yes (0 points) ____ No (1 point) ____

11. Are you healthy and does your family have a history of greater longevity? (If so you might expect to live a long life which ironically might means you could be more in need of care.)

Yes (1 point) ____ No (0 points) ____

12. Do you have a family history of dementia, Alzheimer's disease or neurological disorders? This can put you at higher risk of needing care.

Yes (1 point) ____ No (0 points) ____

13. Do you have a living trust?

No (1 point) ____ Yes (0 points) ____

14. Have you prepared a medical or health care power of attorney?

No (1 point) ____ Yes (0 points) ____

15. Do you worry about your children's future financial security?

Yes (1 point) ____ No (0 points) ____

16. If your death occurred tomorrow would your surviving spouse experience a reduction in income greater than 20%?

No (0 points) ____ Yes (1 point) ____ I am not sure. (2 points) ____

17. If you do not have long term care insurance, have you considered hybrid life insurance that provides living benefits that can be used to help pay for long term care?

Yes (0 points) ____ No (1 point) ____

18. If married or divorced, has your financial advisor prepared a computer analysis of your Social Security retirement benefits, spousal benefits and survivor benefits to determine the best strategy for maximizing lifetime benefits?

Yes (0 points) ____ No (2 points) ____ I have never been married. (0 points) ____

19. Have you or your financial advisor prepared long term projections of both your estimated retirement income and expenses, in an attempt to determine if you might one day outlive your savings?

Yes (0 points) ____ No (2 points) ____

20. Have you personally met with your financial advisor in the past 12 months?

Yes (0 points) ____ No (1 point) ____ I do not have a financial advisor. (2 points) ____

Total Points ____

A **score of 12** or higher might indicate that you may be at a high risk of experiencing a reduction in your future standard of living. You would be well advised to meet with a knowledgeable financial advisor experienced with the issues of market fluctuations, maximizing lifetime Social Security benefits, the impact of taxation and the challenges of longevity.

A **score of 6 to 11** might indicate a moderate exposure to the risk of experiencing a reduction in your future standard of living. It might be wise to focus early on any issues that could possibly increase this risk in the future.

A **score of 0 to 5** might indicate that you have little to no exposure to the risk of experiencing a reduction in your future standard of living.

Retirement Plan **POWR**

BUDGET WORKSHEET

Household / Living	Monthly Amount Current	Monthly Amount Retirement	Notes
Rent/mortgage			
Mortgage prepayments			
Real Estate Taxes			
Renters /homeowners insurance premiums			
Utilities - water / gas / electric / trash pick up			
Groceries and other essentials			
Internet / phone / cable			
Entertainment - / events / shows / dining out			
Hobbies / dues / memberships			
Vacation / travel			
Other			
Other			
TOTAL			

Miscellaneous			
TOTAL			

Transportation	Monthly Amount Current	Monthly Amount Retirement	Notes
Auto Loans			
Auto Insurance			
Auto Registration Fees			
Fuel			
Service / Repairs			
Other			
TOTAL			

Health			
Health Insurance / Medicare			
Long Term Care Insurance			
Life Insurance			
Medications			
Other			
TOTAL			

TOTAL			
--------------	--	--	--