

Borrow

Characters

- Trainer (or leader)
- Teenage Boy
- Mother

Props

- A group of credit cards (or just small pieces of paper)

Time

About 2 minutes

Leader or trainer: (Holds up a few credit cards or pieces of paper, fanned out like a hand of cards.) Credit cards. These days just about everybody has them, even if it's just one. It's important to know how to use a credit card responsibly.

Teenager: I can't wait to become an adult. I'm going to get one of those credit cards like my mom has, and I'm going shopping!

Mother: A credit card is not a magic card.

Teenager: Yes, it is. I remember last month. You went shopping and bought \$500 worth of clothes! You couldn't stop talking about it. In fact, you're wearing one of your new shirts.

Mother: I thought I was getting a great deal because it was a big sale. I used my credit card, but then I was one week late sending in my payment.

Teenager: So? Sometimes I'm late handing in my homework.

Mother: And you lose points, don't you?

Teenager: Yeah, but what does that have to do with credit cards?

Mother: The same thing happens. Not only did I have to pay the \$500 back, but I also had to pay more because I didn't pay my bill on time. There was a pretty high late fee. I was also charged interest on the money I didn't pay off by the deadline.

Leader or trainer: Unfortunately, this mom is not the only one who finds herself in what is a common situation. When you don't know how to use credit well, you can find yourself trapped in a big money hole.

Script**Borrow**

- Mother: I wish I'd thought more about whether I could really afford those new outfits.
- Leader or trainer: People who use credit cards well have learned the secrets of how they work. Here are three important keys:
1. Pay your bill on time. If you can, pay your bill a couple of days early. You want to avoid late and overlimit fees.
 2. Pay your credit card bill in full each and every month.
 3. If you run into a month when you can't pay the entire bill, at least send more than the required minimum payment. Then make a plan to pay off the rest of the credit card balance as soon as you can.
- Teenager: Now I get it. A credit card is like homework. You want to get it all done, and you need to hand it in on time.
- Mother: And while you work toward getting a better grade in class, I can work toward getting a better credit score by using a credit card well. When I get a higher credit score, I can get a loan at a better rate.
- Leader or trainer: Using credit cards well can open doors for you financially. So learn how to use them well. Because when you do, you're on the right path to making positive money choices.