

LESSON 2

FINANCIAL LITERACY

You want to bet?

Are you someone who likes to take risks with money, property, or anything you own that has value in hopes of getting something in return? Do you like the excitement or challenge of competition? If you answered yes to either of these questions, you might be a gambler.



Gambling can be simple and innocent like telling your friend “I’ll bet you a soda that I can race you to the corner and win.” Or, it can be so complicated and extreme that you will begin to bet things you really need like your money, cell phone, food, etc. You can place a “bet” on a **game of chance** where your bet has no impact on the outcome, or you can make a “wager” in a **game of skill** where you are trying to get a specific result from someone else. For example, if you bet your friend that your favorite sports team will win their game, this is a “**game of chance**” bet. If you use money during your turn when playing a card game, such as poker, this is a **game of skill** wager. Both bets and wagers have one thing in common, risk. There is never a guarantee that you will win so always be prepared to lose what you gambled with.

Activities:

1. Now that you understand what gambling is, let’s see how many types of gambling you know. On a piece of paper, create two columns. Label the first “games of skill” and the second, “games of chance”. Then, think of all the games and activities you and your friends play. For each game or activity, put it in the correct column. When you are done, compare your list with someone in your class. Have you ever made a bet or wager on any of these games? Did you win?



2. Do you know anyone who gambles on a regular basis? What type of gambling do they do? Has this person ever won money gambling? If so, how much? How much money do you think that person lost on bad bets or wagers before they won? Do you think this was worth the risk?



This lesson is consistent with the Oklahoma State Department of Education’s Standard 12 of the Personal Financial Literacy Passport. For more resources, visit the Oklahoma Council on Economic Education’s support website at www.moneyisok.org.

