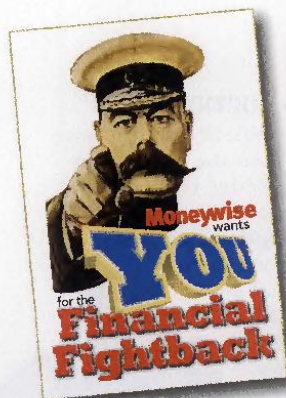




SPIN SOME EXTRA CASH



20 ways to make money in the credit crunch

There are ways to generate income outside the 9-5 grind – get busy in your free time and you could see the pounds rolling in.

Liam Tarry shares his top tips

1 TRACK DOWN OLD ACCOUNTS

According to the British Bankers' Association, there is more than £15 billion sitting forgotten in bank and savings accounts in the UK, with the average balance estimated to be £600.

The good news is that tracing lost funds has become easier with Mylostaccount.org.uk – a free online service that covers all UK bank and building society accounts. All you need to do is to go to the website and type in your details.

2 CLAIM TAX CREDITS

It's always worth checking that you are receiving all the tax credits you are eligible for. Research by Entitledto.co.uk found that people across the UK are collectively missing out on benefits and tax credits worth more than £8 billion a year. So while you're



tracing lost funds, why not visit this website too and work out how much you could claim.

3 SORT YOUR SAVINGS

Another easy way to make money is to make sure your savings are working as hard as they can. After all, you worked hard for your savings, so they should do the same.

If you've had the same savings account for a while it might be worth shopping around because new customers tend to get the most competitive rates. For example, savers with a balance of £20,000 in Halifax's Liquid Gold account, which pays a paltry 0.25%, would receive just £13.69 a month in interest. By transferring to the AA's 4.53% internet saver account, savers would be rewarded with £60.40 a month – that's an extra £724.80 a year.

4 MYSTERY SHOPPER

If you longing for some retail therapy but can't afford to hit the shops, why not earn a few pounds as a mystery shopper? Websites such as Retaileyes.co.uk employ mystery shoppers to drop in unannounced in shops and restaurants and rate their experience.

After you send in your feedback, you'll be paid for your time and reimbursed for any purchases you made. You could make up to £20 a day, and get a meal or a night in a nice hotel thrown in for good measure.

5 USE CASHBACK CREDIT CARDS

If you pay off your credit bill in full each month, a cashback credit card could be the way to go. For example, Abbey's Essentials credit card offers 3% cashback on supermarket and petrol purchases for the first six months, plus you get it paid back into your account the very next month.

"Cashback credit cards are a great way to reward savvy spenders," says Andrew Hagger, from Money.net.co.uk, a price comparison website.



Join the Moneywise Financial Fightback campaign and take control of your finances





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Hidden Treasures

Jonty Hearnden, antiques expert and presenter of BBC 1's *Cash in the Attic and Sun, Sea and Bargain Spotting*, shares his tips for sorting the clutter from the collectables.

"There's a strong possibility that the vast majority of items hidden in people's attics will be car boot-able, but if you're not sure you have a hidden treasure the first step is to contact a local auctioneer," Jonty says. "You could be asked to email across a digital photo which the auctioneer will assess for free, or the auctioneer will often visit you at no extra cost to take a closer look – especially if it's a large item."

Jonty says despite the credit crunch, auction houses are still buzzing. "Art Deco jewellery is hot property at the moment, as is 20th century ceramics. But it's not just fine antiques that do well in the auction rooms. You can get good money for gold jewellery right now, while dinky and Corgi toys, early Star Wars memorabilia, well-kept comics, WW1 medals and even labelled 1960s' dresses all bring out the buyers. These are all items that lots of people have in their attics."



"You can earn extra cash without even having to change your shopping habits."

6 CASHBACK SITES

You can earn even more money from shopping online. Cashback websites will automatically pay you every time you buy a product or a service from selected retailers, from your weekly groceries to switching your utility provider. CashbackKings.co.uk would pay you £1.50 for a £50 weekly shop at Tesco.com, up to £18 if you switched your gas and electricity provider through uSwitch and as much as £85 if you were to take out an individual savings account with Legal & General.



7 TAKE IN A LODGER

While most of us pay a fortune for our homes, it's possible to make your home make money for you.

According to Abbey, you could make as much as £289



a month from renting out a spare room.

Under the government's 'rent a room' scheme, you don't need to pay tax on the first £4,250 you receive either, which means you could charge up to £354.16 a month without being lumbered with a tax bill.

8 RENT OUT A PARKING SPACE

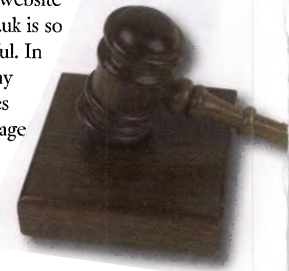
If you live close to a city centre, train station or football stadium and don't use your parking space or garage, you're sitting on a proverbial goldmine. Renting an empty parking place to a commuter or football fan could see you rake in the pounds.

Parkatmyhouse.com is a website where you can advertise your space free of charge and let frustrated drivers get in touch. A parking space in the West End of London, for example, can fetch £500 a month, while in a leafy suburb of Leeds a space could net you £100.

9 AUCTIONS

We're all guilty of hoarding items that 'could come in handy one day'. But one man's rubbish could be another man's treasure, which is why online auction website eBay.co.uk is so successful. In fact, eBay estimates the average British house has about £450

worth of unwanted items that could be sold on the site. For more valuable items, it could be worth going to an auction, see the box on the left.



10 CAR BOOT SALES

If you'd prefer money in your palm instantly, a car boot sale is the place to go. Thousands of people flock to car boot sales every weekend, with pitches costing about £10 a day. To find out where to flog your booty, check out Carbootjunction.com.

11 RECYCLE YOUR OLD MOBILE

Many of us have an old mobile phone gathering dust in a drawer somewhere, but you could easily turn it into cash, even if it is slightly damaged. Websites such as

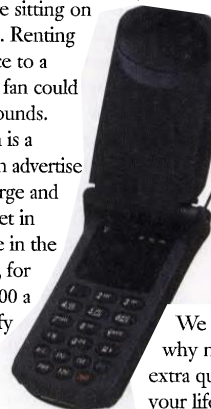
Mopay.co.uk, Fonebank.com

and Envirofone.com will tell you how much your phone is worth.

A Nokia N73, for example, could fetch around £40.

12 SELL YOUR SKILLS

We all have skills and talents so why not use these to make a few extra quid. "If you spent years of your life being marched to piano





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lessons, put the experience to good use in adulthood by advertising your services in the local newspaper as a music teacher. Just three hour-long lessons a week could see you up to £60 better off, not to mention the sense of satisfaction you will get. "The same applies for languages," says Laura Howard, in her book *CashQuestions.com's 100 Ways to Beat the Credit Crunch*.



13 BE A FILM EXTRA

If you fancy seeing yourself on screen, film and TV companies are always on the hunt for extras. You could make up to £150 a day and get the chance to meet some famous actors. You'll need to join an agency first, details of one near you can be found at Nasaa.org.uk.

14 RENT YOUR HOME TO FILM MAKERS

Hollywood can come to your home too, provided you have the right location. If you live in an interesting property, you could bag upwards of £1,000 a day renting your home to film and TV companies. Ideal locations must have large rooms, good parking facilities and understanding neighbours. Ordinary homes are wanted too.

15 MODEL YOUR CHILD

While every parent thinks their child is a star, model agencies could think so too. If you think your little one has what it takes, the first step is to contact an agency to ask about their requirements. You will be asked to send in a head and shoulders photo of your child, either by post or email. If your child stands out, you'll both be invited for an interview,



'You can earn up to £150 a day by working as an extra in a film or TV series'

to assess if your child is right for TV, photo or film. Depending on the child's age, shoots pay upwards £50 an hour, but bear in mind that agencies can charge up to 25% commission.

16 SURVEYS THAT PAY

The web also offers a wealth of balance-boosting opportunities. Survey websites such as Yougov.com, Panelbase.net and Toluna.com will all reward you for your opinions, either through cash or reward vouchers.

Once you've registered on the website, you'll be sent surveys tailored to your personal profile, ranging from 10p to £2 per survey.

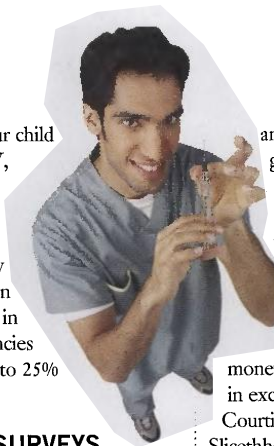
17 EARN FROM WEB RESEARCH

Any Question Answered (Issuebits.com), and Texperts.com are often on the lookout for internet researchers. Once a customer asks a question through their mobile phone, it's the researcher's job to hunt out the answer and reply online. You can choose your own hours and the questions you answer, and can earn around 30p for every question you answer correctly.

18 REVIEW MUSIC

Budding Simon Cowells amongst us should check out Slicethepie.com, a music website that pays users to review unsigned bands.

The idea is simple: you sign up, listen to a track, rate it and write



an honest review. You'll get 5p per review, but the more reviews you make the more you can charge - experienced reviewers can command 25p per song. "If you're a dedicated reviewer, you can earn some decent pocket money, some users have earned in excess of £1,000," says David Courrier-Dutton, the founder of Slicethepie.com.

19 MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS

Volunteering for clinical trials doesn't just have to involve taking untested and risky drugs. Some clinical trials are perfectly safe, such as sleep studies, psychological tests and taste testers. Fit and healthy volunteers living in London willing to donate their blood for clinical research, for example, could be paid £60 a time.

But remember, never sign up for anything you are not happy with - risking your health for a few extra pounds is just not worth it. Go to Gppg.net for trials in your area.

20 JOIN THE ARMY

If you're brave and committed enough to sign up, the Territorial Army is always looking for recruits. You would need to give up one weekend a month, attend an annual two-week camp for basic training and be ready to be called to active service.

Basic pay starts at £32.84 a day, but can rise to £112.51. And, if you complete your minimum commitment of five years, you receive an annual tax-free bonus - which can be as much as £1,500. Go to Armyjobs.mod.uk for details. ●

