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Saving Money: Finding What Works for You

By Darlene Arechederra

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I admit it! I*m guilty!

My husband has lovingly accused me of taking *nothing* out of the fridge and making something out of it. I transform it into a scrumptious, edible meal, and he shakes his head in wonder. He*s delighted each and every time I pull it off.

And do you know what happens when he grins at me that way?

I keep doing it! Every chance I get. It comes naturally for me. It*s a pleasure, and it*s one of the small ways I save money.

But, not all money-saving strategies come naturally to everyone. For me, there*s one that creates more stress in my busy world. It works for others, but not for me.

I*m talking about collecting and using coupons to save even more money while shopping.

If using coupons seems easy for you, you*re probably in your element using them. You enjoy the process of finding, clipping, sorting and organizing them. You*re always on the lookout for new coupons you can use to help you save money.

Or, maybe like me, you*d rather mess with a hive of bees than deal with coupons.

Over the years, I tried to do the coupon thing. You know. Making sure you*ve got the newspapers, flyers, magazines. Oh my, which ones to keep? So many choices! And we don*t want to clip something we normally wouldn*t use just because we have that coupon for it. Right?

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In my coupon journey, I'd pull the coupons out, page by page and tuck them away just in case I needed them. So there they sat. A pile of clutter for me to move around.

But hey, maybe if I shove them in my glove box it'd work better. I cleaned out the glove box to make more room for these money-saving chunks of gold.

Finally, the big day arrives. I'm actually at the store. And my coupons are still intact. My blood pressure shoots up as I envision all that money I'm going to save. I'm only minutes away from having that extra money to buy my new car.

So far, so good. I've found my goodies. I'm ready to go. I've made it, big time. Confident and pleased with myself, I place my items on the conveyor belt that's zipping right along. It should be illegal for something to move so fast. I'd bring home a speeding ticket if I kept that speed on the highway.

But, I've got to pull my eyes back to the road now. Oops. It looks like... a speed bump up ahead. Better

slow this baby down.

What do you mean, *This Coupon*s Expired?* How could this happen?

Fine, then. They can't ALL be expired. I'm going to pull out my patience and use it for awhile. I'm almost home-free with my bundle of savings.

Uh, Miss? I'm sorry, but these aren't the right items for those coupons you've got there.

My eyeballs began to roll at this point. I restrained them, remembering the manners my mother taught me.

Well! Thank you for sharing that with me! I tried to separate my clenched teeth. It took me a bit to manually snap my jaw back in place, too. I followed with a deep, long breath for stress relief.

And as I slowly exhaled, I decided I'd never, ever be caught in line with coupons in my hand that didn't save me any money. I spent time and energy by searching, clipping, storing and carrying them around with me. And of course, remembering to bring them in to the store with me. I had done this more than once, and never with any good results.

No more coupons for me!

No, I'm going home where I'll make a scrumptious meal out of nothing from the fridge. I'll listen to hubby*s oohs and aahs. And I'll feel great again, knowing I'll still save today. Just as soon as I take something for this headache, of course.

Yes, I'll save some money today. But I'll do it MY way.

Author and ezine editor Darlene Arechederra inspires busy women to put the fun back into saving their

money. Her complimentary newsletter serves up heaps of motivation with a unique, down-home style of writing. Join her today at

Exciting Ways to Make Saving Money Fun

By Sarah Delaporte

Exciting Ways to Make Saving Money Fun by Sarah Delaporte

Saving money is not always easy, but approached the right way it can become a hobby that's enjoyable as well as beneficial.

I am going to share some steps I have found to stretch your finances AND enjoying the process.

TIP 1: Relax. :) Relax, Relax and again I say, "Relax". Don't count each penny you save and worry about how much you save. Does it really matter if this week you saved \$1.92 compared to \$1.93 on a meal. Yes, every penny matters, but sometimes the amount is so minimal its not crucial.

TIP 2: Budget. Always good advice, sometimes harder to do.

TIP 3: Make saving money detective work. Uncover the sleuth in you. If you look at it as money saved as unfound treasure, you will find the process exhilarating! There's always a new way to save you have yet to discover. Search for it.

TIP 4: Involve your kids in saving. Play games with them that shows them how to use money wisely. Money Matters is a game by Larry Burkett that does just that. Another way is to help them earn money save you money by encouraging them to cut coupons. To do this, give them a percentage of how much money you save when you use the coupons they cut at the grocery store. They organize your coupons, helping you save and earn extra allowance too!

By making pinching pennies a hobby instead of a chore, you will save your family more money and find it exciting too!

Sarah Delaporte is the owner of Freebie Coupon Corner. She loves helping consumers save money on their groceries with her helpful e-book publications. For more information about Freebie Coupon Corner, you can visit the website at: <http://www.couponcorner.net>

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