Personal Finance Hacks: 8 Tricks

1. The 1% Rule

"The 1% Rule focuses on making small, incremental improvements to your finances consistently. The idea is that by improving just 1% each day, week, or month, you can achieve significant progress over time. Aim to save 20% to 30% of your salary."

- Achievable: The 1% Rule is easy to implement and doesn't require drastic changes.
- Sustainable: Small, consistent improvements are more likely to be maintained over the long term.
- Compounding Effect: Over time, the small improvements compound, leading to significant financial gains.

2. The Reduced Salary Method

- Increased Savings: By living below your means, you can save and invest a larger portion of your income.
- Financial Security: Having a larger savings cushion provides a sense of financial security and allows you to weather unexpected expenses.
- Early Retirement: By investing a significant portion of your income, you can accelerate your progress towards early retirement.

3. The Multiple Personality Accounts

- Clarity: Having separate accounts for each goal provides clarity and helps you to stay focused.
- Motivation: Seeing the balances of your accounts grow can be highly motivating.
- Organization: This method helps you to organize your finances and track your progress towards your goals.

4. The Debt Destroyer Method

- Faster Debt Repayment: This method can help you to pay off your debts faster and save money on interest.
- Increased Financial Freedom: Eliminating debt frees up cash flow and provides a sense of financial freedom.

5. The Spending Firewall

- Reduced Impulse Spending: This method can help you to reduce impulse spending and save money.
- 24-48-7 Buy Rule (Impulse-Control Framework)
- Wait 24 hours before buying small items (like gadgets, clothes, accessories).
- Wait 48 hours before buying medium-value items (like electronics, appliances).
- Wait 7 days before buying high-value items (like phones, furniture, or big tech purchases).

6. The Lifestyle Inflation Shield

The Lifestyle Inflation Shield is a strategy for preventing your spending from increasing as your income grows.

- Increased Savings: This method can help you to save more money as your income grows.
- Financial Security: It provides a sense of financial security and allows you to achieve your financial goals faster.

7. The Emergency Fund Psychology

The Emergency Fund Psychology focuses on building and maintaining an emergency fund to provide a sense of security and peace of mind.

- Set a Savings Goal: Determine how much money you want to save in your emergency fund (typically 3-6 months of living expenses).
- Automate Savings: Set up automatic transfers from your checking account to your emergency fund each month.
- Treat Your Emergency Fund as Sacred: Avoid using your emergency fund for non-emergency expenses.
- Financial Security: An emergency fund provides a sense of financial security and allows you to weather unexpected expenses without going into debt.

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8. The Net Worth Reality Check

The Net Worth Reality Check involves regularly calculating and tracking your net worth to assess your overall financial health.

- Calculate Your Assets: List all your assets, including cash, investments, real estate, and personal property.
- Calculate Your Liabilities: List all your liabilities, including debts, loans, and mortgages.
- Calculate Your Net Worth: Subtract your liabilities from your assets to calculate your net worth.
- Track Your Net Worth Over Time: Regularly calculate and track your net worth to monitor your progress and identify areas for improvement.
- Financial Awareness: This method provides a clear picture of your overall financial health.
- Motivation: Tracking your net worth can be highly motivating and help you to stay focused on your financial goals.
- Early Warning System: It can serve as an early warning system for potential financial problems.