

# Economic Prosperity | HOUSEHOLD MANAGEMENT

## THE SIMS 3: PLAYER IMPACT GUIDE

Age 14+ | 1+ Hours

*“After people play these Sim games, it tends to change their perception of the world around them, so they see their city, house, or family in a slightly different way after playing.”*

--Will Wright, Creator, EA Maxis



### THEME FOR THIS GUIDE: Household Management

*The Sims 3* allows players to control virtual lives of characters, from family needs to house improvements to luxury living. While there are many life aspects that *The Sims 3* universe provides, it is a place to experiment with economic choices for individual households. Household management is defined as the management of money, careers, emotional responses, and needs of those within a household. It applies to both roommates and families living under one roof. While players make these decisions their Sims characters must live with the consequences. For more information, visit: <http://bit.ly/1omPzFu>

<p><b>WHY USE THIS GUIDE?</b></p>	<p>In this guide, we invite you to think about <i>The Sims 3</i> as an exploration of household management by managing the health of your Sims, their families, and your chosen path. As you play, reflect on your experience. In what ways does your Sims household reflect real life? In what ways does it differ? What kinds of lessons about household management can we learn from <i>The Sims 3</i>?</p> <p><i>Answer the questions below and add up your points when you are finished!</i></p>
<p><b>GAME BASICS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose where you want to live and work. What do you choose? [+1]</li> <li>• Pick a skill. Does your skill contribute to your profession? [+1]</li> <li>• Find another way to receive income. What are the positive or negative consequences of how you acquired new income? [+2]</li> <li>• Enter "Buy" or "Build" mode and purchase new features or items for your home. Balance what you need and want when making choices. What kinds of items do you buy? [+3]</li> </ul>
<p><b>THEME INSIGHTS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does your living situation have an impact on your spending? [+1]</li> <li>• Does your Sims's career path have an impact on your household management? Does it change the way you manage your Sim's life? [+2]</li> <li>• How does purchasing limitations affect the household? [+2]</li> <li>• Do you choose to buy luxury or functional materials for your home? What were the influencing factors in your decision? [+3]</li> </ul>
<p><b>WORLD CONNECTIONS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does <i>The Sims 3</i> resemble your household and balance of home, work, and life management? [+1]</li> <li>• How does the balance of needs and luxury in <i>The Sims 3</i> relate to your household management? Which is more important? [+2]</li> <li>• How does household management affect the people around you, including your family, friends, and at school or at work? [+2]</li> <li>• Why is home and life management important? If you focus more on one aspect of your life than others what are the potential outcomes, both positive and negative? [+3]</li> </ul>

**Bonus Challenge:** Create your own household in *The Sims 3* so that it reflects the same family that you live with. Improve your household so that it becomes the best house in the neighborhood. What kinds of decisions did you have to make to get them there? How long did it take? Write a post or make a video and share the link on the Center for Games & Impact Facebook page at <http://facebook.com/gamesandimpact>.