



Are we always able to make choices about money? For the most part, yes. Individuals can decide whether they want to save their money or spend it. If you chose to save it and put it in an account at the bank, you can earn additional money which is called interest. Different types of accounts include savings, money market accounts, certificates of deposit, or college savings accounts.

Sometimes there are almost too many choices when it comes to spending. Next time you are in a grocery store, look around at all the items there are to choose from!

The one money choice that we have little control over are taxes. Taxes are important because they help pay for services provided by our local, state, and federal government. For instance, taxes are used to help pay for education, healthcare, public safety, parks, transportation, and utilities. All of these categories are called 'public goods' meaning that almost everyone within the state or local area benefits from these items.

So the next time you are at a playground, or see a fireman or policeman responding to an emergency, or are watching plows clear snow from the roads, think about how taxes help pay for these important services.