

# *Escape the Pay Check Conundrum*



***(Teacher reads the scenario to the class to begin the game.)***

**Scenario...**

*Due to a business merger, a new company has taken over payroll. There may have been problems during the conversion and pay checks may not be accurate. It's up to you to escape this potential pay check conundrum by completing several challenges.*

**Challenge #1: Pay Check Lingo**

Print a copy of the Pay Check Lingo crossword puzzle for each team and place it in the initial box along with a copy of the clues. This crossword puzzle is a review of the vocabulary terms assigned at the beginning of the unit. After students complete the crossword puzzle, they are to show their teacher who will then provide the team with a clue to the next challenge.

**CLUE:** Add a "0" before each of the numbers that correspond to the FICA deduction terms that are made in equal parts by you and your employer. (Think alphabetically!)

**Key: Medicare (#7 down) & Social Security (#1 across)**

**Code: 0701**

**Challenge #2: Calculating Gross Pay**

Students are provided with necessary information in order to calculate gross pay.

**Key:**

What is your regular pay for this week? \_\_\_\_\$610\_\_\_\_\_

What is your overtime pay for this week? \_\_\_\_\$114.38\_\_\_\_\_ (remember to round)

What is your total gross pay for this pay period? \_\_\_\_\_\$724.38\_\_\_\_\_

The first four digits of your total gross pay= the code that will open up the next challenge

**Code: 7243**

### **Challenge #3: Calculating Net Pay**

Students must correctly calculate payroll deductions in order to determine the net pay.

**Key:**

**Federal Withholding** = \$61.90

**State Withholding** = 3.07% of gross pay= \_\_\_\$22.24\_\_\_\_\_

**FICA = SSI** = 6.2% of gross pay (\$44.91) + **Medicare** =1.45% of gross pay (\$10.50)=  
\_\_\_\_\_\$55.41\_\_\_\_\_

**Net Pay** = \$\_\_\_\_\_\$584.83\_\_\_\_\_

The last 4 digits of your net pay= the code that will open up the final challenge.

**Code: 8483**

### **Challenge #4: Calculating a 401(k) Retirement Plan Contribution**

Students must correctly calculate the contribution that can be made to the 401(k) plan for this pay period.

**Key:**

401(k) Retirement Contribution= \$\_\_\_\_\_\$65.19\_\_\_\_

**Correct Answer to Receive the Key to the Prize Box= \_\_\_\$65.19\_\_\_\_\_**

### **Box Contents**

**Storage Box or Ziploc Bag:** One copy of Challenge #1: Pay Check Lingo Crossword Puzzle & Clues along with pencils.

**Breakout Box #1:** One copy of Challenge #2: Calculating Gross Pay per group along with pencils and scratch paper. Optional: Calculators

**Breakout Box #2:** One copy of Challenge #3: Calculating Net Pay per group along with pencils and scratch paper. Optional: Calculators

**Breakout Box #3:** One copy of Challenge #4: Calculating a 401(k) Retirement Contribution per group along with pencils and scratch paper. Optional: Calculators

**Final Breakout Box:** Positive Winner Posters/Messages & Prize

**Note:** *This escape review game can easily be adapted to Google Forms if you do not have access to boxes, locks and keys! Codes will easily convert!*

## Scenario...

*Due to a business merger, a new company has taken over payroll. There may have been problems during the conversion and paychecks may not be accurate. It's up to you to escape this potential paycheck conundrum by completing several challenges.*

---

### Challenge #1: Pay Check Lingo

Apply your vocabulary terms to complete the crossword puzzle. Show the completed puzzle to the teacher to receive a clue to open the next challenge.

---

#### Clue Card for Challenge #1:

**CLUE:** Add a "0" before each of the numbers that correspond to the FICA deduction terms that are made in equal parts by you and your employer. (Think alphabetically!)

---

### Challenge #2: Calculating Gross Pay

You work as an assistant manager for a local store. Your regular pay is \$15.25 per hour, time and a half for all hours worked over 40 hours. You worked the following hours this pay period:

Monday: 8

Thursday: 8

Tuesday: 8

Friday: 8

Wednesday: 8

Saturday: 5

What is your regular pay for the week? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your overtime pay for the week? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your total gross pay for this pay period? \_\_\_\_\_

The first four digits of your total gross pay= the code that will open up the next challenge

---

### Challenge #3: Calculating Net Pay

Since correctly calculating your gross income to be \$724.38 in the second challenge, it's now time for you to calculate the following deductions to determine your net pay.

**Federal Withholding** = \$61.90

**State Withholding** = 3.07% of gross pay = \_\_\_\_\_

**FICA = SSI** = 6.2% of gross pay + **Medicare** = 1.45% of gross pay = \_\_\_\_\_

**Net Pay** = \$\_\_\_\_\_

The last 4 digits of your net pay= the code that will open up the final challenge.

---

### Challenge #4: Calculating a 401(k) Retirement Plan Contribution

The company you work for offers a 401(k) retirement plan to its full time employees. You want to take full advantage of this opportunity for your future financial well-being.

Each pay you can contribute 6% of your gross pay and your employer will match 3%. Using your gross pay from challenge #2, what will be the contribution to your 401(k) retirement plan for this pay?

401(k) Retirement Contribution= \$\_\_\_\_\_

***Be the first team to show me the correct answer to receive the key that opens the PRIZE box!***

**GOOD  
LUCK!**