

R U Ready?

So you think you're ready to go all the way? Maybe you're just thinking about it. If you've had any access to television, radio, or magazines, you may be thinking that becoming sexually active is a spur of the moment decision. In reality, it is one of the most important decisions you will ever make.

Before you go too far, take a look at these facts:



R U ready to be a full-time mom or dad?

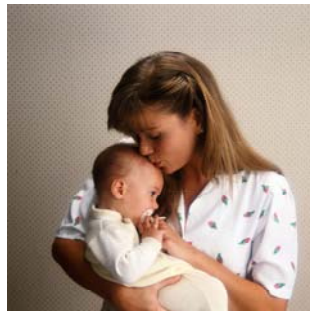
Over one million teens become pregnant each year. Most of the pregnancies are unplanned.

About two out of five women become pregnant at least once before they reach the age of 20.

Four out of five of these pregnancies are unintentional, and 79% of them are to unwed parents.

Teen moms are more likely to have problems during pregnancy and they are more likely to give birth to babies with birth defects and other health problems.

Babies need 24-hour care, seven days a week. They can't talk so communication is very challenging at first. They cry when they are sad, hungry, need attention, or hurting. Trying to figure out why they are crying and what is the appropriate



response can be an exhausting process. Newborn babies almost never sleep through the night. In fact, in the beginning, they have trouble distinguishing between night and day. They have no idea what time it is, nor do they care. Babies are not old enough to be considerate of others. Their preoccupation is focused on what makes them happy – nothing else matters.

Safety is a critical factor in caring for a baby. Something as harmless as a fingernail can cause a scratch or even bleeding to the sensitive skin of a baby. Child proofing the environment including the removal of sharp objects, small items, balloons, plastic bags, household products, and extreme changes in temperature must be monitored at all times.

Caring for a child and learning about proper nutrition is a priority for a new parent. Parenting classes may be available in your community, but there are numerous lessons that you will have to learn as you care for your newborn.

The father may not accept baby. If he doesn't, the courts can order a blood test. Once the test results confirm the identity of the father, he may be ordered to pay child support until the child is grown.



responsibility for the child. If the father can order a blood test to confirm his identity, he may be ordered to pay child support until the child is grown.

It is a known fact that children especially during those early years have a very important role to play. You are ready to be a good role model? A father's love and guidance will help the children grow up right.

rely on their mother for the first few years. But the father also has a very important role to play in the child's life. Are you ready to be a good role model for your child?

R U ready to handle the stress on your relationship as a result your decision to become sexually active?

Relationships can be deceiving. It may appear that you understand each other and that you can talk about anything. But when it comes to having an honest conversation about sex, contraception, previous sexual partners, pregnancy, and STDs, it becomes very uncomfortable to have an open discussion. The news of pregnancy can be a happy occasion, but in a relationship with two teenagers, even the thought of a newborn changes things significantly. Often, the relationship does not survive the nine months of pregnancy.

R U ready to give up your freedom?

One of the hardest adjustments for teen parents to make is not being able to go out when you want to. When adults get pregnant, they are usually more mature and able to make the necessary adjustments. But teenagers are unaccustomed to making sacrifices and typically like to go out with their friends, listen to music, go the movies, and school-sponsored events. Missing out on all of the things that make the teen years fun is hard to do.



R U ready to live on your own?

Unplanned pregnancies cause stress on every relationship, especially you're your parents. What if things don't work out with your parents and you decide to live on your own? Before you make this decision in hast, consider this:

Living on Your Own -- Let's Calculate the Cost! (Thirteen Ed Online – WNET New York)

So you want to live on your own?

What does it cost to live on your own? Hopefully, this exercise will help you plan and prepare for the things that you want, and will help you make sound economic decisions in the future.

Complete the table below using the least expensive values from the [Apartment Hunting](#) and [Car Loans](#) worksheets, and your totals from numbers 2 and 4 on the [Food and Entertainment](#) worksheet.

	Monthly	Yearly (monthly x 12)	Weekly (yearly / 52)
Housing			

Utilities			
Food			
Car			
Entertainment			

2) Answer the following questions:

In order to meet your minimum needs, how much would you need to earn (after taxes) weekly? Monthly? Yearly?

If you worked 40 hours per week, how much would you need to earn per hour in order to cover your expenses? What if you only worked 25 hours per week?

How much would you need to cover the additional expenses associated with caring for your child? Contact a local day care provider and find out the average cost of care per week. Be sure to visit a local grocery store to determine the cost of diapers, milk, wipes, cereal, and other essentials for the baby.

What changes or decisions could you make in order to lower your basic expenses?

As you can see, living on sounds. In fact, it may cost Keep in mind, this exercise assess the financial it did not address the responsibility needed to real world.



your own is not an easy as it more than you can afford. was designed to help you obligation of living alone, but maturity and overall successfully make it in the