

Ways to Earn

Read how work, skills, and costs affect income.

SS.4.FL.1 "Earning Income"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each way a person earns income, and circle each skill, training, or cost that can affect how much money the person earns or keeps.

Maya and Luis at Work

- ① On Saturdays, Maya works at Green Leaf Garden Center. She waters plants, carries soil bags, and puts price tags on pots. The manager hired her because she is careful and knows many plant names. Maya is an employee, so the store pays her an hourly wage. Her pay for doing work is called earned income.
- ② Her brother Luis earns income another way. He owns a small lawn-care business and brings a mower to neighbors' yards. Families pay Luis after he mows their lawns. Luis is self-employed because he runs the business. He uses some of the money to buy gasoline and save for mower repairs. The money left after costs is his profit.
- ③ Both workers can increase what they earn over time. Maya could learn to use the store's computer system or complete a plant-care class. These skills may help her qualify for jobs with more responsibility and higher pay. Luis could advertise, learn safe equipment care, and serve more customers. Education, training, experience, and strong work skills can affect a person's earning opportunities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What work does Maya do to earn income at the garden center?

2 Is Luis an employee or self-employed? Use information from the passage to explain.

3 Why does Luis not keep all the money families pay him for mowing lawns?

4 Name one action Maya could take to help her qualify for higher pay. How could it affect her earnings?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a job or business that is not named in the passage. Write three sentences that tell how a person would earn income, whether the person would be an employee or self-employed, and one skill or training that could help the person earn more.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each way a person earns income, and circle each skill, training, or cost that can affect how much money the person earns or keeps. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What work does Maya do to earn income at the garden center?	She waters plants, carries soil bags, and puts price tags on pots.
2	Is Luis an employee or self-employed? Use information from the passage to explain.	Luis is self-employed because he owns and runs his lawn-care business.
3	Why does Luis not keep all the money families pay him for mowing lawns?	He uses some money for business costs, including gasoline and mower repairs.
4	Name one action Maya could take to help her qualify for higher pay. How could it affect her earnings?	She could learn the store's computer system or complete a plant-care class. The skill or training could help her qualify for a job with more responsibility and higher pay.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would be self-employed by walking dogs for neighbors. I would earn income when families pay me after I walk their dogs. Learning pet safety could help me earn more because families may trust me with more dogs.

Accept equivalent descriptions of Maya's tasks, Luis's self-employment, and the costs of running his business. For the open response, accept any realistic job or business that correctly explains income, work status, and a skill or training connection to higher earnings.