Zero-Based Budgeting

Money

Giving every unit of income a job, so nothing leaks unaccounted for.

An alternative to percentage budgeting, better suited to variable income.

1. **Start with last month's income**
   Budget money you already have, not money you expect.

2. **List every fixed cost**
   Housing, utilities, insurance, minimum debt payments.

3. **Allocate to goals next**
   Savings and extra debt repayment, before discretionary spending.

4. **Assign the rest**
   Food, transport, fun. Every remaining unit gets a category.

5. **Reach zero**
   Not zero in the bank — zero unallocated.

WHEN SOMETHING OVERRUNS

Move money between categories deliberately
Do not simply overspend
The reallocation is the discipline

General education, not financial advice. This suits irregular income better than fixed percentage rules.