

DON'T BE THAT GIRL WHO ONLY THINKS AS FAR AHEAD AS NEXT WEEK

Lauren is a 23-year-old office assistant who makes \$36,000 a year. She spends a lot on clothes and entertainment, but would love to be a millionaire some day. Help Lauren see she CAN be a millionaire if she starts saving to a 401(k) now. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

- **START IT:**
Lauren's employer offers a 401(k) plan with a 5% match. What percentage of Lauren's paycheck should she contribute to her 401(k) and why?

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- **RISK IT:**
Lauren can control the risk for her 401(k) investments—low (3% annual return), medium (6% return), or high (9% return). What risk level do you recommend? Why?
- **COMPOUND IT:**
If Lauren takes your advice, how much will she have at age 25? At 30? (Go to www.investor.gov/tools/calculator/compound-interest-calculator to help you answer.)
- **MARKET BOOM:**
When Lauren turns 30, the market booms. Low-risk returns stay at 3%, but medium-risk increases to 7% and high-risk increases to 12%. Should Lauren adjust her risk level? Why or why not? If the boom carries to age 35, how much will Lauren have in her account?
- **MARKET SETBACK:**
At age 50, the market experiences a setback. Low-risk returns stay at 3%, but medium-risk decreases to 4% and high-risk decreases to 7%. Should Lauren adjust her risk level? Why or why not? If the setback carries to age 55, what will Lauren's balance be?
- **MAX IT:**
The maximum Lauren can save in her 401(k) is limited by law. If she gets a raise at age 35 and now makes \$200,000, can she contribute to her 401(k) at the same rate? Why or why not? If not, recommend a new contribution rate.
- **ADD TO IT:**
Based on Lauren's raise and her new contribution rate, how much will she have in her 401(k) at age 40? 45? 50? Assume the market has leveled to its normal rate of return.
- **USE IT?:**
At age 55, Lauren considers withdrawing money from her 401(k) to help pay her daughter's college tuition, but understands there is a penalty. What is the penalty for withdrawing early? Should Lauren make the withdrawal? Why or why not?
- **DID SHE MAKE IT?:**
It's retirement time. Did Lauren become a millionaire by using your recommendations? Why or why not?

