



# Worksheet – Tax Season: Audit Adventure

## Part I: Learning the Ropes

1. Did Gordon ever flag an error in your work? Which mistake did you make most often and do you know why you made it?
2. How did you decide which expenses counted as deductions, and which should be ignored?
3. What is a “Standard deduction”?
4. Did you ever choose the standard deduction over adding up individual deductions? Why did you make that choice?

## Part II: What the Rules Taught You

5. In your own words, what’s the difference between a tax deduction and a tax credit?
6. Which would you rather have: a \$1,000 credit, or a \$1,000 deduction?
7. The game separates “earned income” from “unearned income.” What’s the difference? Give one example of each from the game.

8. Why do you think some expenses (commuting to work, buying groceries, or a personal phone bill) don't count as deductions, even when they feel necessary for a job?
  
9. What is the importance of "filing status", such as single, married filing jointly, married filing separately, or head of household?
  
10. Put the following terms where they belong in the formula below:

Income            Tax Owed            Deductions            Credits            Tax Rate

( \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ ) x \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

### Part III: Real Life

11. Think about the next few years. What types of income might you earn? For example: wages from a job, freelance work, selling something online?
  
12. Let's say you started working as a taxi driver.
  - a. What types of income might you earn? Try to think of at least 2.
  
  - b. What types of deductions might you have? Try to think of at least 3.
  
13. The game taxed higher incomes at higher rates. Does that seem fair to you? What's one argument for it and one argument against?
  
14. If you were about to file your own taxes for the first time, what's one thing from this game you'd actually remember and use?