



Time for a **CREDIT QUIZ**



When it comes to building credit, it can be difficult to tell fact from fiction. Use this short true-or-false quiz to help you get the facts straight and your credit in great shape!

TRUE OR FALSE?

I CAN GET BOTH A CREDIT REPORT AND CREDIT SCORE FOR FREE.



TRUE

Some services partner with the major credit agencies to get you a free score — **Borrowell**, **Credit Karma** and **Mogo** are a few. Credit reports from **Equifax** and **TransUnion** are also free.

CHECKING MY OWN CREDIT SCORE WON'T IMPACT IT.



TRUE

In general, running your own credit does not negatively impact your score. It's the hard inquiries that make an impact — the ones lenders run when you apply for a credit card, a mortgage or other loan.

WHEN I PAY OFF MY DEBT, IT'LL DISAPPEAR FROM MY CREDIT REPORT.



FALSE

Paid debt will remain on your credit report for several years. If it was paid on time, it can boost your score. Negative information can hurt, sticking around for 6-14 years depending on the circumstances.

WITH A PROMOTION AND A BETTER SALARY, MY CREDIT SCORE WILL GO UP.



FALSE

Income and job title may indirectly affect your score, but salary is not factored into your report. Still, head's up — lenders may ask about your employment to determine how likely you are to pay your debts.

CLOSING MY PAID-OFF UNUSED CREDIT CARD ISN'T GOING TO HELP MY CREDIT SCORE.



TRUE

It may pay to keep it open. Closing an unused card reduces your amount of credit and limits your credit history, which can sometimes lower your credit score. But if that credit card is tempting you to spend, close it!

MY SPOUSE AND I CAN RUN A JOINT CREDIT REPORT.



FALSE

Each individual receives their own credit score. Your joint accounts and shared loans may impact each of your scores, since they will appear on each of your reports.

Want more help sorting credit fact from fiction? Give me a call, and I'll refer you to a great lender who can help break it down.



SETTLING THE SCORE

Understand the different credit score rankings and how these numbers are calculated to know where you stand.

UNDERSTAND YOUR CREDIT RATING SCORE

HOW YOUR FICO CREDIT SCORE IS CALCULATED

**EXCELLENT CREDIT:
760-900**

- ✓ Guaranteed financing approval
- ✓ Best interest rates
- ✓ Most savings on interest payments

**GOOD CREDIT:
725-759**

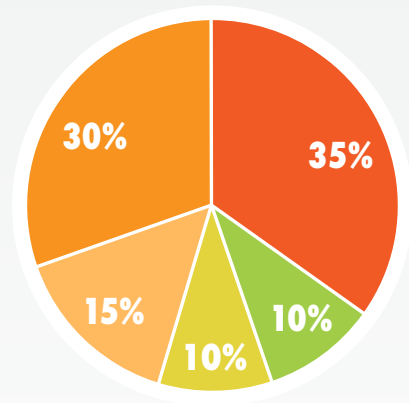
- ✓ Mostly guaranteed financing approval
- ✓ Decent interest rates
- ✓ Make a plan to reach excellent credit for the best rates

**AVERAGE CREDIT:
660-724**

- ✓ Mostly guaranteed financing approval
- ✓ Okay interest rates
- ✓ Build up toward good credit to save on interest rates

**POOR CREDIT:
BELOW 660**

- ✓ Not likely to be approved for financing
- ✓ High interest rates
- ✓ Work to get credit score back on track



35%
Payment History

30%
Amounts Owed

15%
Length of Credit History

10%
Types of Credit in Use

10%
New Credit and Recently Opened Accounts



Vern Totten
604.842.8376

verntotten.com
vern@verntotten.ca

RE/MAX
Crest Realty

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated
#1-5050 Kingsway, Burnaby BC V5H 4C2