

**Harvard University**

---

**From the Selected Works of Lissa Coffey**

---

Summer October 17, 2016

## 27 Biggest Credit Card Debt Myths Busted - INFOGRAPHIC

Lissa Coffey



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons CC\\_BY-SA International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/).



**SELECTEDWORKS™**

Available at: <https://works.bepress.com/lissacoffey/16/>

# 27 Biggest

## CREDIT MYTHS BUSTED

Credit is easily one of the most important aspects of our financial lives, yet it's often one of the most misunderstood. With all the credit score theories you've collected – from friends, the news, the web, and personal finance celebrities – you probably have a good idea about what helps your score go up, and what will send it plummeting. But chances are, some of what you've heard and thought were true are nothing but a myth. Use our handy guide to determine, once and for all, which of your notions are fact and which are myth.

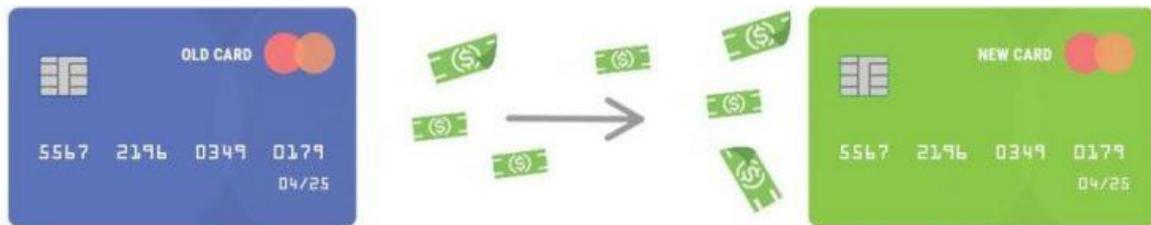
**Myth #1:** Making the minimum payment is enough.

**Myth #2:** The 0 percent introductory APR lasts forever.

**Myth #3:** Opening a new credit card will hurt your credit score for a long time.

**Myth #4:** You must carry a balance in order to improve your credit score.

**Myth #5:** Having many credit cards proves you have good credit.



**Myth #6:** Anyone can get their credit card balance cut in half for any reason.

**Myth #7:** I have to pay upfront for debt settlement and the debt settlement company controls my money

**Myth #8:** If I don't settle, the debt stays forever.

**Myth #9:** Debt settlement and bankruptcy are my only options when I can't pay.

**Myth #10:** When the negotiations are done, I'll be out of debt.

**Myth #11:** Once a credit score is bad, it can never be rebuilt.



**Myth #12:** Checking a credit report will hurt your score.

**Myth #13:** Credit is what got Americans into the current financial mess.

**Myth #14:** Finding a 20% off deal on that purchase, putting it on your card and paying the minimum next month is smart.

**Myth #15:** Getting a bank loan to pay off my high interest card debt is easy.

**Myth #16:** Credit card debt is something to be ashamed of.



**Myth #17:** Credit Card Interest Accrues Immediately After Purchase

**Myth #18:** Using an overdraft is expensive...

**Myth #19:** “I'm only responsible for half my joint debts...”

**Myth #20:** The government owns the credit bureaus....

**Myth #21:** The credit bureaus report people as having either good or bad credit...



**Myth #22:** If bills aren't paid on time because a consumer believes the bill is incorrect, the consumer can't be held accountable....

**Myth #23:** Moving credit card balances around will help hide any debt....

**Myth #24:** Not paying my credit card bill can land me in jail ....

**Myth #25:** "If I don't keep up with my mortgage repayments, I'll lose my home....."

**Myth #26:** Good credit is tied to how much money a consumer has.....

## Myth #27: Once bankrupt, always bankrupt.....

---

### **ALSO READ MORE ABOUT:**

- [Credit Card Bills Consolidation](#)
- [Pay Off Your Credit Card Debt](#)
- [Credit Card Hardship Program](#)
- [Credit Counseling For Debt Relief](#)
- [Student Loan Debt Consolidation](#)
- [Credit Card Negotiation Tips](#)
- [Credit Card Specialists](#)
- [Best Ways To Consolidate Student Loans](#)
- [Credit Card Consolidation](#)
- [Debt Consolidation](#)
- [Debt Consolidation Pros and Cons](#)
- [Credit Card Debt Settlement Process](#)
- [Credit Card Debt Management](#)
- [Zombie Debt](#)