

Calculating the Future

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I've done more planning of my future with my calculator than with anyone else.

Future planning seems so much more tangible when you have numbers to work with.

How much will I have made by the end of college if I stick with my current job?

Would I be able to live on my own if I went full-time with my current job after college?

What are other jobs I could get with an English degree, and how much would they pay?

I return to my calculator, rechecking my numbers, adding in new factors for what may happen.

I return to my calculator to add up the hours I work so I can feel justified in my self-pity.

At the end of college, what will I have to show for it?

A good job with an English degree? That's likely.

Friends I'd made in the spare time I didn't have?

Anything could happen, which isn't necessarily reassuring.

The future is so unpredictable.

But numbers, numbers are safe.

Numbers are constant.

If numbers change, we have a system to recalculate.

I've probably done more planning of my future with my calculator than with anyone else.

And perhaps that is part of the issue.

