GLOSSARY

taxes – payments that citizens make to the government; money that the government takes from citizens
* How much did you pay in taxes last year?

to look (something) over – to review something; to read something and check it for correctness or accuracy
* Do you look over your children's homework before they give it to their teacher?

exempt – not subject to something; not being required to do or pay something because it is not applicable to oneself
* Peace Corps Volunteers are sometimes exempt from paying application fees when they apply for graduate school.

EZ tax return – a simplified form for paying one's taxes to the U.S. government
* If you have only one job and not very many investments, the easiest way to file your taxes is to fill out the EZ tax return.

earnings – money that one receives from jobs or investments
* When Marty accepted the new job, his annual earnings doubled.

salary – the amount of money that one receives in a year for working for a company or organization
* The engineering company offers a starting salary of $72,000.

dividends – money earned on one's investments; money received as a percentage of the amount that one has invested in some way; money paid by a company to its investors
* When you invest in a company, you might earn dividends or you might lose money.

dependent – a person, usually a child, who depends on another person for financial support, including food, housing, and clothing
* His parents listed him as a dependent until he turned 18 years old and started living alone.

withholdings – the money that a worker does not receive because it is taken out of his or her payments in order to pay taxes
* If you have a job that pays $100,000 per year, you will probably receive only around $70,000, because about 30% might be kept as withholdings.

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tax refund – the amount of money that one receives from the government if one's withholdings for the previous year were more than the amount that one owed in taxes
* He had too much in withholdings last year, so this year he expects to receive a big tax refund.

standard deduction – an amount of money that people can subtract from their total income when calculating their taxes if they do not want to specify all of their expenses
* She asked her accountant whether it would be better to take the standard deduction or to list all her expenses in detail.

to itemize – to make a detailed list of something, especially of one's expenses on a tax form
* Business owners need to itemize all their business expenses.

medical expenses – money spent on doctors' appointments and medicine
* Avrumel had a lot of medical expenses when he got in a car accident.

charitable contributions – money given to a not-for-profit organization, often to help poor people, improve the environment, or conduct medical research
* Each year they make charitable contributions for AIDS research and forest protection.

calculation – the use of numbers in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to find the answer to a math problem or the price or amount of something
* A good bank employee needs to be able to make simple calculations very quickly.

to crunch numbers – to make calculations; to add, subtract, multiply, and divide
* I hope you enjoy crunching numbers all day if you're thinking of becoming an accountant,

refund check – a piece of paper that one receives from the government and can take to a bank to exchange for money in the amount of one's tax return
* I wish we didn't have to wait so long to receive our refund checks. I could really use the extra money this month!

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