**Are You That Smart?**

Have you heard of the Dunning-Kruger Effect? Chances are that a lot of people you know would say they do or say they understand it when they don’t. And that is the Dunning-Kruger Effect: thinking you know more than you know.

**Why?**

It comes down to our ability to analyze ourselves. When we start learning a new thing, we don’t know how little we actually know. As a result, any bit of knowledge on the subject seems like a lot of knowledge on the subject.

**Look at it this way.**

If you graph a Dunning-Kruger curve, it starts out very high—you think you know a lot because anything is more than nothing. The graph takes a huge dip as you start to learn how much you don’t know. As you learn, the curve starts to go up. At some point the graph plateaus, but with a slight upward angle as a true master knows there is always more to learn.

**How to avoid it.**

The easiest way to avoid falling into the trap of the Dunning-Kruger Effect is to go in knowing that you know nothing. What little knowledge you may have on a subject or skill is just the surface of a vast world of learning. Stay curious and don’t get trapped by your own misunderstanding.

**Do You Need a Checkbook?**

The answer is *yes*. Although the regular use of actual paper checks is less frequent these days, having them on hand can be useful. From landlords to utility companies, having a checkbook can be very convenient.

**Rent**

Landlords seem to love checks. And it makes sense. Paying rent on a credit card, usually a person’s largest monthly expense, doesn’t work for many people either because their credit limit is too low, they don’t have a credit card, or the billing cycle of a credit card messes up their budget. So, landlords know that receiving rent payment by check is the most accessible method for the greatest number of people.

The same systems needed to process credit cards are used to process debit cards. Landlords could do a direct withdrawal, but that opens them up for liability on their end. A lot of credit unions have systems to mail out checks on your behalf, but if the post office loses that check, you’ll need a backup.

**Big Purchases**

Buying a car or a home is more than most apps are going to let you transfer. You’re going to need to write a check. While these purchases are predictable and you’ll be able to go in and get a check printed for the purchase, there are times when you will need to pay a large sum and a check is your only option.

**Keep It at Home**

You’re not going to need a check every day. But having access to checks is helpful. If your credit union offers free checks, don’t pass it up. Worst case it’s a small book in your drawer.

Sunrise Family Credit Union

www.sunrisefamilycu.org