



13-Item Risk Tolerance Scale

(developed by Dr. John Grable & Dr. Ruth Lytton)

1. **In general, how would your best friend describe you as a risk taker?**
 - a. A real gambler
 - b. Willing to take risks after completing adequate research
 - c. Cautious
 - d. A real risk avoider

2. **You are on a TV game show and can choose one of the following; which would you take?**
 - a. \$1,000 in cash
 - b. A 50% chance at winning \$5,000
 - c. A 25% chance at winning \$10,000
 - d. A 5% chance at winning \$100,000

3. **You have just finished saving for a “once-in-a-lifetime” vacation. Three weeks before you plan to leave, you lose your job. You would:**
 - a. Cancel the vacation
 - b. Take a much more modest vacation
 - c. Go as scheduled, reasoning that you need the time to prepare for a job search
 - d. Extend your vacation, because this might be your last chance to go first-class

4. **If you unexpectedly received \$20,000 to invest, what would you do?**
 - a. Deposit it in a bank account, money market account, or insured CD
 - b. Invest it in safe high-quality bonds or bond mutual funds
 - c. Invest it in stocks or stock mutual funds

5. **In terms of experience, how comfortable are you investing in stocks or stock mutual funds?**
 - a. Not at all comfortable
 - b. Somewhat comfortable
 - c. Very Comfortable

6. **When you think of the word “risk,” which of the following words comes to mind first?**
 - a. Loss
 - b. Uncertainty
 - c. Opportunity
 - d. Thrill

7. **Some experts are predicting prices of assets such as gold, jewels, collectibles, and real estate (hard assets) to increase in value; bond prices may fall, however, experts tend to agree that government bonds are relatively safe. Most of your investment assets are now in high-interest government bonds. What would you do?**
 - a. Hold the bonds
 - b. Sell the bonds, put half the proceeds into money market accounts, and the other half into hard assets
 - c. Sell the bonds and put the total proceeds into hard assets
 - d. Sell the bonds, put all the money into hard assets, and borrow additional money to buy more

8. **Given the best and worst case returns of the four investment choices below, which would you prefer?**

Source: Grable, J. E., & Lytton, R. H. (1999). Financial risk tolerance revisited: The development of a risk assessment instrument. *Financial Services Review*, 8, 163–181.

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- a. \$200 gain best case; \$0 gain/loss worst case
- b. \$800 gain best case, \$200 loss worst case
- c. \$2,600 gain best case, \$800 loss worst case
- d. \$4,800 gain best case, \$2,400 loss worst case

9. In addition to whatever you own, you have been given \$1,000. You are now asked to choose between:

- a. A sure gain of \$500
- b. A 50% chance to gain \$1,000 and a 50% chance to gain nothing.

10. In addition to whatever you own, you have been given \$2,000. You are now asked to choose between

- a. A sure loss of \$500
- b. A 50% chance to lose \$1,000 and a 50% chance to lose nothing.

11. Suppose a relative left you an inheritance of \$100,000, stipulating in the will that you invest ALL the money in ONE of the following choices. Which one would you select?

- a. A savings account or money market mutual fund
- b. A mutual fund that owns stocks and bonds
- c. A portfolio of 15 common stocks
- d. Commodities like gold, silver, and oil

12. If you had to invest \$20,000, which of the following investment choices would you find most appealing?

- a. 60% in low-risk investments, 30% in medium-risk investments, 10% in high-risk investments
- b. 30% in low-risk investments, 40% in medium-risk investments, 30% in high-risk investments
- c. 10% in low-risk investments, 40% in medium-risk investments, 50% in high-risk investments

13. Your trusted friend and neighbor, an experienced geologist, is putting together a group of investors to fund an exploratory gold mining venture. The venture could pay back 50 to 100 times the investment if successful. If the mine is a bust, the entire investment is worthless. Your friend estimates the chance of success is only 20%. If you had the money, how much would you invest?

- a. Nothing
- b. One month's salary
- c. Three month's salary
- d. Six month's salary



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Scoring

1.	A = 4	B = 3	C = 2	D = 1
2.	A = 1	B = 2	C = 3	D = 4
3.	A = 1	B = 2	C = 3	D = 4
4.	A = 1	B = 2	C = 3	
5.	A = 1	B = 2	C = 3	
6.	A = 1	B = 2	C = 3	D = 4
7.	A = 1	B = 2	C = 3	D = 4
8.	A = 1	B = 2	C = 3	D = 4
9.	A = 1	B = 3*		
10.	A = 1	B = 3		
11.	A = 1	B = 2	C = 3	D = 4
12.	A = 1	B = 2	C = 3	D = 4
13.	A = 1	B = 2	C = 3	D = 4

* Answers to questions 9 and 10 can be averaged to obtain a combined score.

<u>SCORE</u>	<u>LEVEL</u>
33 – 47	High tolerance for risk
29 – 32	Above-average tolerance for risk
23 – 28	Average/moderate tolerance for risk
19 – 22	Below-average tolerance for risk
0 – 18	Low tolerance for risk

To contribute to the University of Missouri’s Personal Financial Planning study on measuring financial risk tolerance, you can enter results anonymously at this website: http://pfp.missouri.edu/research_IRTA.html

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