



# Percy Peacock

## AND THE CREDIT CRISIS



Percy Peacock proudly admired his reflection in the clothing store mirror. The handsome suit jacket fit just right. It would make a perfect addition to his collection of jackets. He simply had to buy it!



Percy slowly strutted toward the store check-out, carrying his handsome jacket and showing off his tail feathers. On the way, a rack of colorful shirts caught his eye.



He should buy one of these striking shirts to wear under his perfect jacket... and a sharp tie to complete the look...and what about a stylish hat to top it off? Percy made his clothing choices and finally reached the check-out.



“Hello Mr. Percy, it’s great to see you shopping again,” said Charlie Chickadee, the store’s owner. “Looks like you found some wonderful buys for your wardrobe.” Charlie scanned the prices and then asked, “Cash or credit?”



Percy smiled and replied, "I'll use my credit card, Charlie. Adding another purchase to my monthly bill won't hurt."



Charlie ran the card and waited for the bank's approval. Then he shook his feathery head slowly. "I'm sorry, Percy. Your card wasn't accepted. That means the bank will not lend you any more money to buy things. You won't be able to purchase your clothes today after all."



**WEAR**  
SOMETHING

Percy's tail feathers drooped behind him as he heard the news.  
"What? But I want my new outfit now!"





Charlie sounded his bird call, “Chick-a-dee-dee-dee,” at Percy’s comment. Then he replied, “Percy, having credit means that you promise to pay later for goods or services you buy now. Are you making your monthly payments?”



Percy scratched the crest of feathers on top of his head. "I think I made a payment last month...or was it the month before...or the month before that? I guess I've lost track of my payments."



Charlie knew Percy could use some credit advice. “Percy, you’ve made purchases here many times using your credit card. I enjoy selling clothes to you, but I think you need to take care of your credit bills more carefully. You need to pay what you owe before you buy more with your credit card.”



Percy's beak sunk sadly. He protested, "But I need stylish clothes to attract the lady peahens. I like to parade in my outfits so they can see how elegant I am."



Charlie answered by sharing another tip, "Once your bill is paid off you can make smaller credit purchases again. Just remember to pay for them on time."



Percy thought about Charlie's advice, then fanned his tail to display his shiny feathers once again. "My mom always says that I'm wonderful just the way I am. I guess I don't need to keep buying new clothes."



If I wear what I have, I can pay off my credit bill and save for things I really need, like a brush for my crest and a feather groomer. I might even donate money to mom's senior center, The Golden Agers Retweet.



And Percy strutted out of the store, as proud as a peacock.





**CREDIT  
SMART**

The money moral is: Use credit wisely and make payments on time to be a responsible consumer.



The End