

1. **The right answer is B. False**

Alas; there is no federal tax deductions for the value of your time or labor donated to a charity. (Think about it: if you were paid for your labor, that would be taxable income that you could offset by giving the money to charity -- and deducting the gift. The no pay/no deduction state of affairs leaves you in the same position.) But you can deduct the cost of any materials you donate and 14 cents per mile driven in connection with your charitable work.

2. **The right answer is A. True**

Job-related moving expenses are an "above-line deduction"; you can deduct them even if you take the standard deduction on your tax return. If you do itemize, you can add your job-hunting costs, such as career counseling, resume printing and travel expenses to job interviews, to your miscellaneous deductions. Such expenses are deductible to the extent they exceed 2% of your AGI. While moving expenses are deductible for getting to your first or any subsequent job, job-hunting costs don't count when getting your first job. After that you can write off costs of looking for a job in the same line of work.

3. **The right answer is A. True**

You can take a tax deduction alimony you pay an ex-spouse, even if you don't itemize your deductions. To qualify as alimony, the cash-only payments must be spelled out in your divorce agreement. If you're the one receiving alimony, its taxable income to you – and your ex is required to report your Social Security number so the IRS can be sure you report the money.

4. **The right answer is B. False**

Unlike alimony, the payer doesn't get a deduction; nor does the recipient pay income tax on the money.

5. **The right answer is B. No.**

You can't deduct the cost of elementary or secondary school tuition. But on the bright side, one tax break that helps cover those bills was saved from serious downsizing by the fiscal cliff deal. Coverdell Educational Savings Accounts permit taxpayers can contribute up to \$2,000 a year to an account from which withdrawals (including earnings) can be used tax free to pay for qualified education expenses including tuition, books, supplies, uniforms. In recent years, even the cost of elementary and high schools could qualify. But the contribution limit was scheduled to drop to \$500 a year in 2013 and tax-free withdrawals were to be permitted only for college expenses. Thanks to a last minute deal, however, Coverdells maintain the \$2,000 annual limit and the right to tap the accounts tax-free for elementary and high school expenses.

6. The right answer is B. Child

No need to fight over this. The IRS says that if Mom or Dad makes a payment on your student loan debt, it's a gift that gives twice. You, the child, can qualify to deduct up to \$2,500 of student loan interest paid, as long as your parents don't claim you as a dependent.

7. The right answer is B. False

You must itemize to deduct the state income taxes you pay. And, thanks to the fiscal cliff deal, taxpayers still have the choice of deducting either their state income taxes or their state and local sales taxes. Needless to say, that's an easy choice for those who live in a state with no income tax. The right to write off sales taxes expired at the end of 2011 but Congress revived it retroactively to cover 2012 and 2013. But, still, you'll have to itemize to capture the break.

8. The right answer is A. True

You can deduct losses . . . but only to the extent of the gambling winnings you report as taxable income. And, while the law calls for all gamblers to report 100% of their winnings, only the 25% or so taxpayers who itemize can deduct their losses. Those who use the standard deduction can't deduct gambling losses (but they're still expected to pay tax on their winnings).

One bright spot: Although gambling losses are considered miscellaneous expenses to be deducted on Schedule A of the Form 1040, this write off is not restricted by the rule that allows miscellaneous expenses only to the extent that they total more than 2% of your adjusted gross income. Gambling losses are deductible dollar for dollar, up to the amount of winnings reported.

9. The right answer is B. False

As far as Congress is concerned, it is possible to be too generous. Generally, your deduction for donations to charity in one year cannot exceed 50% of your adjusted gross income for that year (30% in the case of donations of appreciated assets and contributions to private foundations). But any excess can be carried over for up to five tax years to deliver the tax break you're due.

10. The right answer is B. Price at which the donated car is sold by the charity

In most cases, your deduction is limited to the price paid for the vehicle when it is sold by the charity to raise cash. But, there's a notable exception:

If the charity uses the vehicle in its mission (to deliver meals to the needy, for example) or fixes it up and gives it to a needy family, you are allowed to claim a deduction equal to the vehicle's fair market value (check used car guidebooks or Web sites). That could produce a bigger write-off since the value a charity gets at auction is likely to be a lower wholesale or even fire-sale price.