



REAL-LIFE TAX-FILING EXAMPLE:

# I can't wait to get my tax refund! How can I get it?

You want to file, but how do you do that? There are lots of ways you can file, but only some options will make sure you keep your full refund. Let's look at the tax-time experiences of Miranda and Sam. Both are new parents with babies born in 2021 with \$10,000 in income.



 **Mom 1: Miranda**

**01. Her Situation**

Miranda knew she could expect a big refund as a new mom, but wasn't sure exactly how much to expect. She knew there was a lady down the street who advertised getting her refund fast. The tax lady agreed to do her taxes, and even gave her \$500 of it up front. When the refund was finally processed a few months later, it was supposed to be \$8,500 but she only got \$7,000 back. They told her that her fee was \$1,000 for the tax preparation, and she was stuck!

**02. The numbers**

Up-front credit 😊	\$500
Total refund	\$8,500
Credit taken out of refund 😞	-\$500
Preparer fees	-\$1,000
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In Miranda's pocket	<b>\$7,000</b>

 **Mom 2: Sam**

**01. Their Situation**

Sam was new to tax filing and nervous because they didn't know how the new baby would affect their taxes. They didn't want to mess up, and wanted a little extra support. They used tools from Let's Get Set to learn they could get \$8,500 in their federal refund this year and to get matched with an IRS-certified tax preparer who could do their taxes virtually for free. After filing their taxes Sam felt good knowing it was done right. A few months later the \$8,500 appeared in their account!

**02. The numbers**

Total refund	\$8,500
Preparer fees	-\$0
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In Sam's pocket	<b>\$8,500</b>



**Q: Who (Miranda or Sam) is better off?**

Miranda got some money quickly, but ultimately missed out on \$1,000. Although it took a little longer for Sam to get their refund, they were able to keep all of their money, and knew they had it done right. Sam felt empowered by getting the maximum money for their family.