# The Benefits of Doing Your Own Taxes

Doing your own taxes is not as difficult a task as your tax professional might want you to perceive it to be. Actually, tax preparation software has come a long way in the past few years, making it so easy for you to prepare your own taxes, that it’s virtually impossible not to be able to understand the process, even with absolutely no knowledge of tax laws. This holds particularly true with tax preparation software such as **Turbo Tax, Tax Act, Tax Slayer,** and **H & R Block at Home,** just to name of few. Tax software has gotten even better, and is relatively inexpensive, so it is virtually just as easy and effective to use tax software as it is to go to a professional tax preparer.

Actually, there are significant benefits to be derived from doing your own taxes.

* Doing your own taxes means that you do not have to disclose your sensitive personal information to another person, and this is significant, because you will eliminate the risk of having your information falling into the wrong hands. Do you know how safe is your personal information is after you leave them with your tax preparer? The IRS is grappling with a five-fold increase in taxpayer identity theft since 2008, and is advising that if you use tax accountants, you should query them as to what measures they are taking to protect your information.
* Doing your own taxes will actually save you a bundle. Hiring an accountant these days can be costly; tax preparation fees can range from $300 and upwards for an average tax return with a Schedule A.
* Doing your own taxes places you in full control of your tax return. Because you can work on your taxes at your own pace, you can take as much time as you want, and do whatever research is necessary to ensure optimum results, which of course can literally translate into thousands of dollars in your pocket each year.
* Doing your own taxes will motivate you to take a closer look at your own finances, and as you immerse yourself in the process, you will gradually become more knowledgeable about tax matters and money management issues.

To maximize the benefits of doing your own taxes, however, it is obvious that you will need to have a certain amount of basic tax knowledge. Although the software will try to guide you through the process in some way or another, to ensure that you will claim all your tax credits and deductions, it would be to your advantage if you could place yourself in a position that will allow you to be somewhat proactive, as far as being able to identify all your eligible tax credits and deductions, even before you begin your return.

Let’s face it; tax credits and deductions can be worth a lot these days! For example, the Earned Income Credit can be worth up to almost $6,000 if you have three or more kids, and your income falls within a certain range. If you were to miss out on this credit, and on any of the many others that you might be eligible for, that would be an absolute tragedy! It would be like giving your money away to the government just like that!

There are certain rules laid down by the IRS, which determine the taxpayer’s eligibility to claim all relevant tax credits and deductions that exist. Without knowledge of these rules, however, you might be at risk of losing out on some of these tax credits and deductions that you could be eligible for.

To help you with the entire process of preparing your tax returns, and to give you a thorough understanding of the rules which determine your eligibility for the various tax credits and deductions, you can grab a copy of the e-book “**Doing Your Own Taxes is as Easy as 1, 2, 3,”** on TaxConnections.com. This e-book has been compiled in simple layman terms, and is very easy to understand.