



Loan Payments, Credit Cards, and Mortgages

Loan Basics

The principal is the amount of money owed at any particular time.

An installment loan (or amortized loan) is a loan that is paid off with equal regular payments.

An amortization schedule is a table of principal and interest payments over the life of a loan.

Loan Payment Formula (Installment Loans)

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 $PMT = \frac{P \times \left(\frac{APR}{n}\right)}{\left[1 - \left(1 + \frac{APR}{n}\right)^{(-nY)}\right]}$

PMT = regular payment amount

P = starting loan principal (amount borrowed)

APR = annual percentage rate

n = number of payment periods per year

Y = loan term in years

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Principal and Interest for Installment Loans

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The portions of installment loan payments going toward principal and toward interest vary as the loan is paid down.

- Early in the loan term, the portion going toward interest is relatively high and the portion going toward principal is relatively low.
- As the term proceeds, the portion going toward interest gradually decreases and the portion going toward principal gradually increases.

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Credit Cards

Credit cards differ from installment loans in that you are not required to pay off your balance in any set period of time.

- A minimum monthly payment is required.
- Monthly payment generally covers all the interest but very little principal.
- It takes a very long time to pay off a credit card loan if only the minimum payments are made.

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Credit Card Debt

Example: You have a credit card balance of \$2700 with an annual interest rate of 23%. How much will you need to pay each month in order to pay off your balance over 1 year?

Solution:

$$PMT = \frac{P \times \left(\frac{APR}{n}\right)}{\left[1 - \left(1 + \frac{APR}{n}\right)^{(-nY)}\right]} = \frac{\$2700 \times \left(\frac{0.23}{12}\right)}{\left[1 - \left(1 + \frac{0.23}{12}\right)^{(-12d)}\right]} = \$254.01$$

You must pay \$254.01 per month to pay off the balance in 1 year.

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Mortgages

- A home mortgage is an installment loan designed specifically to finance a home.
- The down payment is the amount of money you must pay up front in order to be given a mortgage or other loan.
- Closing costs are fees you must pay in order to be given the loan. These include
 - direct costs, or fees charged as points, where each point is 1% of the loan amount.

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Mortgages

- A fixed rate mortgage is one in which the interest rate is guaranteed not to change over the life of the loan.
- An adjustable rate mortgage is one where the interest rate changes based on the prevailing rates.

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