

Uses of Simple Interest

Finite Math

13 February 2017

Quiz

If P dollars is invested in a savings account with an annual simple interest rate r for t years, how much is earned in interest?

$$I = ???$$

Simple Interest

Simple interest is computed as

$$I = Prt$$

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where I = interest, P = principal, r = annual simple interest rate (written as a decimal), and t = time in years.

Future Value

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Solving for Other Details

We can use this formula to predict what interest rate we need or how much principal to take out/deposit.

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Example

You're looking to invest \$5,000 and make \$100 in interest after 10 weeks. What annual rate on your investment will you need to accomplish this?

Now You Try It!

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You invest \$4,000 at an annual rate of 3.9%. How long will it take for the investment to be worth \$5,000? Give your answer in years, correct to 2 decimal places.

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6.41 years

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Suppose a brokerage firm uses the following commission schedule

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<i>Under \$3,000</i>	<i>\$25+1.8% of principal</i>
<i>\$3,000 - \$10,000</i>	<i>\$37+1.4% of principal</i>
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An investor purchases 450 shares of a stock at \$21.40 per share, keeps the stock for 26 weeks, then sells the stock for \$24.60 per share. What was the annual interest rate earned on the investment?

Now You Try It!

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<i>Principal</i>	<i>Commission</i>
<i>Under \$3,000</i>	<i>\$32+1.8% of principal</i>
<i>\$3,000 - \$10,000</i>	<i>\$56+1% of principal</i>
<i>Over \$10,000</i>	<i>\$106+0.5% of principal</i>

An investor purchases 75 shares of a stock at \$37.90 per share, keeps the stock for 150 days, then sells the stock for \$41.20 per share. What was the annual interest rate earned on the investment? (Again, assume a 360-day year.)

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Solution

6.352%

Average Daily Balance

A common method for calculating interest on a credit card is to use the *average daily balance method*. As the name suggests, the average daily balance is computed, then the interest is computed on that.

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Example

A credit card has an annual interest rate of 19.99% and interest is calculated using the average daily balance method. If the starting balance of a 30-day billing cycle is \$523.18 and purchases of \$147.98 and \$36.27 are posted on days 12 and 25, respectively, and a payment of \$200 is credited on day 17, what will be the balance on the card at the start of the next billing cycle?