

SIMPLE INTEREST It Really Is Simple

CALCULATING SIMPLE INTEREST

Simple interest is calculated as a percentage of the deposit on an investment or loan using the formula $I = Prt$ where:

$I =$ Interest (accumulated over _____)

$P =$ Principal (the deposit amount)

$r =$ rate (expressed as a decimal)

$t =$ time (expressed in terms of years.)

Simple interest is added to the principal at the end of the period using the formula $A = P + I$, where

$A =$ $P + Prt$ (principal + interest)

$A = P(1 + rt)$ Simple Interest.

Interest Rate (r)

Show the following interest rates as they would appear in the simple interest formula as r .
(Hint: Divide by 100, or move decimal 2 spaces to the left)

a) 13%

0.13

b) 2.5%

0.025

c) 0.5%

0.005

In the simple interest formula, time **MUST** be expressed in terms of years.

So... if **time** is given in:

• Months \rightarrow \div by 12

• Weeks \rightarrow \div by 52

• Days \rightarrow \div by 365

Time (t)

Express the following lengths of time in terms of years (t in the simple interest formula)

b) 24 months

2

c) 8 months

$\frac{2}{3}$ years

d) 14 weeks

$\frac{7}{26}$

e) 82 days

$\frac{82}{365}$

EXAMPLE 1

a) Calculate how much interest is earned if \$2 000 is invested at 4.5% simple interest for 26 weeks.

$P = 2000$ $r = 0.045$

$$I = Prt$$

$$= 2000(0.045)(0.5) = \$45$$

$t = 0.5 \text{ years}$

b) How much is the investment worth?

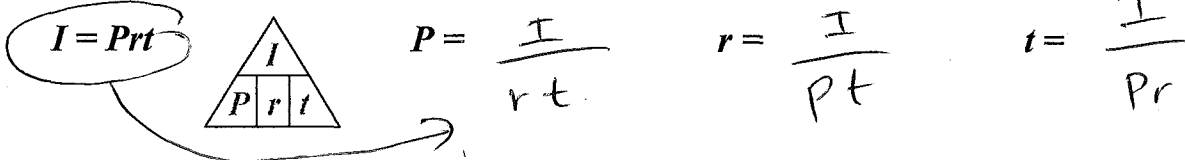
$$A = P + I$$

$$= \$2045$$

∴ Investment was worth \$2045

The Simple Interest Triangle → Finding P, r, and t

Rearrange the simple interest formula to find the principal, interest rate, and time.



EXAMPLE 2

rearranging

How much principal is needed to earn \$500 in interest in 2 years invested at 2.5% simple interest?

$P = ?$
 $I = 500$
 $t = 2$
 $r = 0.025$

$$I = Prt$$

$$500 = P(0.025)(2)$$

$$\frac{500}{0.05} = \frac{0.05P}{0.05} \Rightarrow P = 10,000$$

∴ 10,000 were needed as a deposit.

EXAMPLE 3

What rate of simple interest is needed to get \$7 000 to grow to \$10 000 in 5 years?

$r = ?$
 $P = 7000$
 $A = 10000$
 $t = 5$

$$A = P + Prt$$

$$10000 = 7000 + 7000(r)(5)$$

$$\frac{3000}{35000} = \frac{35000r}{35000}$$

$$r = 0.0857 \Rightarrow 8.57\%$$

$$I = Prt$$

$$3000 = 7000(r)(5)$$

$$r = 8.57\%$$

EXAMPLE 4

How long would it take \$1 500 to grow to \$2 000 at a simple interest rate of 3%?

$I = 500$
 $r = 0.03$
 $t = ?$
 $P = 1500$

$$I = Prt$$

$$500 = 1500(0.03)(t)$$

$$t = \frac{500}{45} = 11.1$$

11 years.
 1 month.
 10 days.

COMPOUND INTEREST

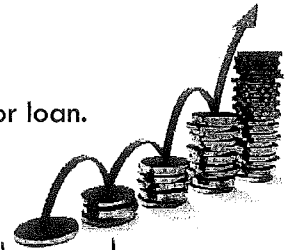
REVIEW

Simple Interest

- Interest paid on ONLY the principal of an investment or loan.
- Has a constant growth.

Compound Interest

- Interest paid on the principal AND its accumulated interest.
- Calculated at regular compounding period and added to the principal for the next compounding period.
- Has exponential growth.



COMPOUND INTEREST FORMULA $A = P(1 + i)^n$

$A =$ accumulated amount (or future value)

$P =$ deposit/principal (the initial amount)

$i =$ interest rate per compounding period

$n =$ number of compounding periods

Compounding Frequency Terminology

- Annually – once a year
- Semi-annually – 2 times per year (every 6 months)
- Quarterly – 4 times per year (every 3 months)
- Semi-monthly – 24 times per year (twice a month)
- Bi-weekly – 26 times per year (every 2 weeks)
- Weekly – 52 times per year (but NOT 4 times a month)

Monthly 12

Interest Rate (i)

Calculate the interest rate (i) as it would appear in the compound interest formula.

(Hint: Convert to decimal and divide by the number of compounding periods)

a) 6% semi-annually

b) 5% weekly

c) 1.75% quarterly

$$i = \frac{0.06}{2} = 0.03$$

$$i = \frac{0.05}{52}$$

$$i = \frac{0.0175}{4}$$

Compounding Periods (n)

Calculate the number of compounding periods (n) as it would appear in the compound interest

formula. (Hint: multiply the length of time (in years) by the # of compounding periods in the compounding frequency)

a) Compounded **quarterly**
for 5 years

b) Compounded **semi-annually**
for 18 months ^{years}

c) Compounded **bi-weekly**
for 8 months

$$n = 5 \times 4 \\ = 20$$

$$n = 1.5 \times 2 \\ = 3$$

$$n = \frac{8}{12} \times 26$$

$$= 17 \frac{1}{3} = \frac{52}{3}$$

EXAMPLE 1

a) Calculate the amount of a \$500 investment, invested at 3% compounded quarterly for 3 years.

$$A = ?$$

$$P = 500$$

$$i = 0.03 / 4 = 0.0075$$

$$n = 3 \times 4 = 12$$

$$\begin{aligned} A &= P(1+i)^n \\ &= 500(1.0075)^{12} \\ &= \$546.90 \end{aligned}$$

b) How much interest was earned?

$$\begin{aligned} I &= A - P \\ &= \$46.90 \end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE 2

Peter borrowed \$5 000 to buy a used car? The interest rate on the loan was 5.45% per year, compounded monthly. He plans to repay the loan in four years.

a) How much must Peter repay?

$$A = ?$$

$$P = 5000$$

$$i = \frac{0.0545}{12}$$

$$n = 4 \times 12 = 48$$

$$\begin{aligned} A &= 5000 \left(1 + \frac{0.0545}{12}\right)^{48} \\ &= \$6214.87 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Interest} = 1214.87$$

b) If Peter repays the loan 6 months early, how much interest will he save (not have to repay)?

$$A = ?$$

$$P = 5000$$

$$i = \frac{0.0545}{12}$$

$$n = 42$$

$$A = 6048.17$$

$$I = 1048.17$$

$$\text{Saving} = 1214.87$$

$$- 1048.17$$

$$\hline \$166.70$$

EXAMPLE 3

Jennifer's investment has grown by an average of 12.6% per year, compounded annually, over the past seven years. How much would her investment of \$2000 made ~~eight~~ ^{seven} years ago be worth today?

$$i = 0.126$$

$$n = 7$$

$$P = 2000$$

$$A = \$2000(1.126)^7 = \$4589.85$$

3 RULES OF THUMB FOR CALCULATING COMPOUND INTEREST

- Always identify the value of each variable first.
- Remember to use BEDMAS
- Keep all decimal places in your calculator and round to 2 decimal places at the end.