

# CHECKING

"Using a bank account can be the first step in breaking the cycle of living paycheck to paycheck, thus paving the way for financial freedom." - Sean McQuay

## What Students MUST Know

- Checking accounts are a safe and convenient option for storing money you plan on spending; they're not effective for saving & don't help you build credit.
- Choosing to opt-out of the banking system can result in lots of wasted time and money in going to check cashers, and you are likely to incur fees to access your own money.
- When selecting a checking account, read the fine print! Look out for fees, opt-out of overdraft protection, and consider features that matter to you (FDIC insured, number of ATMs, mobile banking options, etc.).
- Check your bank statement at least once per month to catch any errors - banks can make mistakes when processing your transactions!
- Taking advantage of features such as online bill pay, direct deposit, online & mobile banking, alerts, person-to-person (P2P) payments, and more can help you manage your finances more effectively.
- Protect your identity and information online by taking precautionary measures, such as using a strong password, a secure WiFi network, etc.
- Consider both banks and credit unions when choosing where to open an account - both have their advantages and disadvantages.

For Vocabulary: Access the [Checking Quizlet](#)

For Lessons: Access the [Checking Unit Page](#)

## Current Trends

What's New in Checking?

Survey: Number of Americans Without Bank Accounts Declines

What's New With Overdraft Fees?

5 Fintech Trends Disrupting Retail Banking

WalletHub 2018 Banking Landscape Report

Mobile Banking: Exploring Trends For Market Leadership

## Research + Data

### DATA CRUNCHES

- How We Pay for Stuff: Debit, Credit, or Prepaid?
- How Much Does Your Checking Account Cost Your Bank?
- How Safe Are Mobile Banking and Payments?

### QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

- What percent of millennials are comfortable carrying no cash with them?
- How much do 18 to 24-year-olds pay annually in overdraft fees?
- What percent of Gen Z have a payment app on their phone?

### RESEARCH

- Bank of America's Trends in Consumer Mobility Report
- 2017 FDIC National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households

## Addressing Common Student Misconceptions

- **Of course I'll sign up for overdraft protection - it will prevent me from overdrawing my account & paying fees!**

The term is misleading - with overdraft protection, you are actually charged a fee when you overdraw! | The average overdraft fee is \$35. | Some banks may actually reorder your transactions in a single day so you incur the maximum amount in fees.

- **Writing a check and balancing my checkbook is "old-school." I can just check my balance online or through the app.**

Does your balance online or in the app reflect checks you wrote today? | In what scenarios might you still have to write a check? | How might balancing your account on a regular basis help you?

- **A checking account is the only type of account I need.**

How do you plan on building a credit history? | What interest rate do most checking accounts get? | Is this enough to help you build a solid savings fund?

## Suggested NGPF Resources

THE FINE PRINT: Checking Account

PROJECT: Payment Decisions

INTERACTIVE: Get Basic with OnlineBank Sim

COMPARE: Select A Checking Account

CASE STUDY: Check Yourself Before You Wreck Yourself

PROJECT: Online Tools & Apps