

## Lesson 5-1: Checking Accounts

### OVERVIEW

Nothing beats the feel of a crisp new \$20 bill in your hand. But as you move toward the “real world” after high school, you’ll run into situations where handing someone cash isn’t the best option—if it’s an option at all. And credit cards aren’t always the best choice either. Especially since the interest can mushroom into a mountain of debt fast. Luckily, there are plenty more ways to spend and receive money.

In this lesson you will learn about how to use a checking account.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

In this lesson you will use a checking account to handle business transactions. Along the way you will:

- ☒ Discuss reasons to make check payments.
- ☒ Demonstrate how to use a checking account.
- ☒ Explain how to reconcile a checking account.

Demonstrate what you learned by using a checking account.

### LEARNING TASKS

These tasks match pages 3-21 in Student Guide 5.

— 1.	There’s a new song you want—quick! Brainstorm as many different ways you can shop for and/or pay for this item.
— 2.	Brianna knows how to handle gift cards and cash but has never had to use other ways to pay for items. Have you? Find out how checking accounts are used for payments.
— 3.	Learn how to use a checking account to give and receive money. Complete <b>Activity 5.2: Check Writing 101</b> and <b>Activity 5.3: Make the Deposit</b> for practice.
— 4.	Jason paid out a lot of money in fees because he wasn’t tracking his spending. Can you do any better? Complete <b>Activity 5.4: Keeping Track</b> and the <b>Balance Zoe’s Bucks</b> task to practice keeping track of payments and deposits from a checking account.
— 5.	Demonstrate how to track checking account payments and deposits. Complete <b>Challenge 5-A: Use a Checking Account</b> . Reconcile the account at the end of each month to verify your calculations.



### TAKING IT HOME

Ask an older family member if s/he has ever used a check cashing service. If so, ask about the pros and cons to using check cashing services and ask if there was a fee charged for using the service.



### FURTHER PRACTICE

Complete a Check Writing tutorial on the Goodwill Community Foundation education website, [www.gcflearnfree.org/moneybasics/6](http://www.gcflearnfree.org/moneybasics/6). Additional tutorials are available on this site for additional practice.



### FURTHER STUDY

A written check is a contractual agreement used to transfer money from one person to another. When you open a bank account, you sign papers that are also considered a contract. Research the rights and responsibilities of using various payment methods, including check, debit card, money order, or gift cards.

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