



Checks and Balances

It's never too early for students to learn to keep track of their money. Even though bank transactions are electronic, and statements are becoming paperless, it's a good idea for students to practice sensible money management and good record-keeping.

Read the following story with your children, and discuss the importance of maintaining accurate financial records. After all, we all know that computers are programmed by people who make mistakes.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Thank you for downloading this Financial Literacy Feature. We hope the information and activities offered will be helpful in strengthening your family's financial literacy skills.

Activity

Mark starts high school in the fall and is shopping for clothes, school supplies, and locker organizers. He has a joint-checking account with his dad, and plans to use it for his expenses. He knows that he has to keep a record of every deposit he makes and of each check he writes. That way, he'll avoid going over his spending limit.

Another way to stay within his budget is to avoid paying costly ATM fees, so Mark and his dad made sure their bank had a branch near their home. Mark can use his bank's ATM for free.

Luckily, Mark has developed good financial habits. He knows that an ATM is not a vending machine that dispenses money without any consequences; he has to have funds in his checking account to cover any withdrawals he makes at an ATM.

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Helpful Hint
to parents,
students,
and all ATM

users: Learn about ATM fees and how to avoid them at www.bankrate.com/finance/checking/banks-taking-a-bigger-bite-with-atm-fees.aspx.



As he prepares for high school, help Mark maintain his checking account register, using the following deposits and withdrawals:

- May 5 Deposit \$500—To open the account
- June 10 Deposit \$650—Eighth-grade graduation gifts
- June 12 Check #1000—\$239.25 Styles Superstore, clothes
- June 18 Check #1001—\$28.78 ShopMart, posters
- June 30 Check #1002—\$35.87 CompLand, printer ink cartridges
- July 3 Check, #1003—\$24.56 Office Station, school supplies
- July 3 Deposit \$250—Earnings from mowing lawns and washing cars
- July 10 Check #1004, \$59.35 SportRack, sneakers
- July 19 Check #1005—\$30.00 Regency Styles, haircut
- July 24 ATM withdrawal for movie, pizza, and cash, \$60
- July 30 Deposit \$100—Birthday money from Grandmother
- Aug 3 Check #1006—\$35.00 Affordable Crafts, model airplane supplies
- Aug 10 Check #1007—\$58.00 ShutterBug, prints & digital picture frame

Check No.	Date	Description	Withdrawal	✓	Deposit	Balance
	5/5	deposit to open			500.00	500.00
	6/10	deposit, grad. gifts			650.00	
1000	6/12					



Check No.	Date	Description	Withdrawal	✓	Deposit	Balance
1007	8/10	Smutterburg	5800			92-919
1006	8/3	Affordable Crafts	3500			98719
	7/30	deposit			1000.00	102-2-19
	7/24	ATM withdrawal	6000			92-2-19
1005	7/19	Kegeency	3000			982-19
1004	7/10	SPORTRACK	5935			1012-19
	7/3	deposit			2500.00	107154
1003	7/3	office station	2456			82154
1002	6/30	compland	3587			84610
1001	6/18	shopmart	2878			88197
1000	6/12	styles superstore	23925			91075
	6/10	deposit			6500.00	1,500.00
	5/5	deposit to open			5000.00	5000.00
Check No.	Date	Description	Withdrawal	✓	Deposit	Balance

Answers:



Download more Parent and Student Financial Literacy Features for grades K-12 at www.ja.org/programs/programs_save_usa_materials_parents.shtml

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