

Simple Interest

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What is Simple Interest?

Suppose you put an amount of money in the bank. Let's call this initial amount P . We are told that after t years your money will earn interest each year. That yearly or *annual* amount of interest that your money earns is denoted by r or r is the *interest rate*. This value is usually expressed as a decimal value or as a percentage. e.g. 0.06 or 6%. Our goal is to try and figure out how much money you will earn after t years and what your total amount will be after those t years. Let's start by defining a few values with variables.

Variable	Name	Description
P	Principal	This is the original amount you deposited into the bank or put into the investment
r	annual interest rate	This is the rate at which your money will "grow" per year.
t	time in years	This is the amount of time that you have invested your money P for.
I	interest earned	This is the amount of interest you earned over the time period t .
A	total amount	This is the total amount you have, $P + I$, after the investment period t .

The relationship between these variables is,

$$I = Prt \text{ and} \tag{1}$$

$$A = P + I = P + Prt \tag{2}$$

Now we have the interest earned over that time period t ,

$$I = Prt$$

and the total amount of money you have after t years is,

$$A = P + I$$

Exercises

1. Find the principal when,
 - a) $I = \$250$, $r = 1.75\%/year$, $t = 10$ years.
 - b) $I = \$1250$, $r = 5.5\%/year$, $t = 5$ years.
2. Find the rate when,
 - a) $P = \$10000$, $t = 4years$, $I = \$1750$
 - b) $P = \$500$, $t = 5years$, $I = \$50$
3. Find the time when,
 - a) $P = \$2000$, $r = 3.5\%$, $I = \$700$
 - b) $P = \$3500$, $r = 1.75\%$, $I = \$306.25$
4. Find the interest an total amount given,
 - a) $P = \$3075$, $r = 8.15\%/year$, $t = 6years$
 - b) $P = \$5000$, $r = 6.25\%/year$, $t = 5years$
5. In what time will a sum of money double itself at 5 %/ year?
6. \$4000 were lent each to Ron and Rob at 15% / year for 3/5 years and 5 years respectively. Find the differenc ein the interest paid to them.