Lesson Eight
Cars and Loans
Ownership (fixed) costs:
- Purchase price
- Sales tax
- Registration fee, title, and license
- Financing costs
- Insurance

Operating (flexible) costs:
- Gasoline
- Oil and other fluids
- Tires
- Maintenance and repairs
- Parking and tolls
Quality
What level of quality do I want?
What level of quality do I need?

Cost
How much do I want to spend?

Car Model
Should I choose a car with a well-known name even if it costs more?

Research
What do consumer magazines say about the kind of car I want?

Recommendation
Do I know anyone who owns the kind of car I want?

Timing
Should I wait until there’s a sale on the kind of car I want?

New or Used
Should I buy a new or a used car?

Where to Buy
If I buy a used car, should I buy it from a dealer or a private party?
Before you shop, ask yourself:

- Which car model and options do I want?
- What is the invoice price? What is the true cost to the dealer?
- How much am I willing to pay the dealer above the invoice price?
- What is the value of my present car that I will be trading in?

Before you buy, be sure you:

- take the car for a test drive.
- make your offer to as many dealers as possible.
- compare final sales prices and buying services.
- compare financing costs from various sources.
- try to sell your old car yourself (dealers usually give better deals without a trade-in).
- decide whether you need an optional service contract.
Before you shop, ask yourself:

- How much can I afford to spend?
- Which car models and options interest me?
- What is the cost of car maintenance?
- Where is the nearest shop that services the kind of car I want?
- Are parts readily available for the kind of car I want?
- What price can I expect to pay? (Check recent prices in used-car “blue books,” on the Internet, in newspaper ads, consumer magazines, etc.)
- What kind of financing is available?
- What are the costs of a loan?
- Do I know how to read a “Buyer’s Guide” sticker?
Before you buy, be sure you:

- know the reputation of the dealer.
- know what type of warranty comes with the car.
- know what type of service contract comes with the car.
- ask about the maintenance history.
- take the car for a test drive.
- have the car inspected by an independent service maintenance person.
sources of used cars

New-car dealers:
- provide quality used vehicles.
- have a service department available.
- ask higher prices than other sources.

Used car dealers:
- specialize in previously owned vehicles.
- offer only limited warranty (if any).
- may sell vehicles in poor condition.

Private parties:
- can offer a good buy if the vehicle was well maintained.
- offer little consumer protection.

Other sources:
- sell vehicles that have been driven many miles.
- examples: auctions or sales by government agencies, auto rental companies, the Internet
how many prices are there?

**List Price/Retail Price/Sticker Price:**
The price the dealership is asking for a new car.

**Invoice Price/Dealer Invoice Price:**
The price the dealer has paid the manufacturer for the car.

**Base Price:**
The price of the car before any options are added.

**Book Value:**
The value of a used car listed through resources like Kelley Blue Book at kbb.com.

**Asking Price:**
The amount a seller wants for his/her used car. You may be able to buy the car for a slightly lower price than this.
These factors may vary between loans...

- Annual Percentage Rate (APR)
- Length of the loan
- Monthly payments
- Total finance charge

and so does the amount you'll repay!

Borrowing $8,000 at different rates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APR</th>
<th>Length of loan</th>
<th>Total monthly payment</th>
<th>Total finance charge</th>
<th>To be repaid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.00%</td>
<td>36 months</td>
<td>$258.14</td>
<td>$1,293.04</td>
<td>$9,293.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00%</td>
<td>60 months</td>
<td>$169.98</td>
<td>$2,198.80</td>
<td>$10,198.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.25%</td>
<td>36 months</td>
<td>$266.67</td>
<td>$1,600.12</td>
<td>$9,600.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.25%</td>
<td>60 months</td>
<td>$178.97</td>
<td>$2,738.20</td>
<td>$10,738.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.00%</td>
<td>36 months</td>
<td>$269.55</td>
<td>$1,703.80</td>
<td>$9,703.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.00%</td>
<td>60 months</td>
<td>$182.02</td>
<td>$2,921.20</td>
<td>$10,921.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To estimate the total cost of a loan:

amount of the loan x APR x number of years*

Example:
amount of the loan: $10,000
APR: 10%
number of years: 5

$10,000 x 0.10 x 5 = $5,000 interest
$5,000 (interest) + $10,000 (amount of loan) = $15,000 total cost

To estimate the amount of monthly payments:

total to be paid divided by number of months of the loan*

Example:
total to be paid: $15,000
number of months: 60 (5 years)

$15,000 ÷ 60 = $250 per month

*These formulas produce estimates that are slightly higher than your actual costs and payments. They do not account for smaller interest payments as you repay the loan.
How much can you afford to borrow? (the 20-10 rule)

20:
Never borrow more than 20% of your yearly net income.

Example:
You earn $400 a month after taxes.
Your yearly net income is: \[ \$400 \times 12 \text{ months} = \$4,800 \]
20% of your yearly net income is: \[ \$4,800 \times 20\% = \$960 \]

You should have less than $960 of debt!

10:
Your monthly payments should be less than 10% of your monthly net income.

Example:
You earn $400 a month after taxes.
10% of your monthly net income is: \[ \$400 \times 10\% = \$40 \]

You should pay less than $40 per month for all debts!
types of car insurance coverage

**General Liability (40–50% of premium)**
- Pays for bodily injury.
- Pays for property damage (e.g. to another person’s car).

**Collision (up to 30% of premium)**
- Pays for the physical damage to your car.
- Includes a deductible (paid by the customer).

**Comprehensive (about 12% of premium)**
- Pays for damage caused by vandalism, fire, floods, theft, etc.

**Medical**
- Covers medical payments for injured driver and passengers.

**Uninsured motorist**
- Pays for bodily injury in accidents caused by uninsured drivers.
how insurance rates are set

**Personal characteristics**
- Age
- Sex
- Marital status
- Personal habits
- Type and frequency of vehicle use

**Geographic location**
- “Rural” usually lowers rates, “urban” usually raises rates

**Driving record**
- Accident with death, bodily injury, or property damage
- Number and kind of moving violations

**Vehicle characteristics**
- Damage, repair, and theft record of type and model of car
- Value and age of car
Manuel wants to buy a car. He wants to know exactly how much he can afford to spend each month to own, operate, and maintain a car.

Manuel’s net monthly income is $1,280.

His fixed expenses are:
- $350 for rent

His flexible monthly expenses are:
- $75 for savings
- $25 for utilities
- $185 for food
- $35 for transportation (bus fare)
- $150 for tuition and books
- $40 for entertainment
- $20 for personal items
- $29 for household items

If Manuel gets a car, he expects to spend about $40 a month on gas and oil, and about $20 on parking and tolls.

Manuel needs to have car insurance. He has shopped around and expects that a car insurance premium will cost about $225 a month.

1. How much can Manuel afford for a monthly car payment?

2. If he took a 60-month loan on a $6,000 car at 10%, how far would he be over budget?
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1. How much can Manuel afford for a monthly car payment?
   $86

2. If he took a 60-month loan on a $6,000 car at 10%, how far would he be over budget?
   $41.48
Rose is thinking about buying a car. She has $1,000 saved for a down payment. She wants to know how much she can afford to spend each month on a car.

Rose brings home $926 each month from her first job. She brings home $974 from her second job.

Her fixed expenses include:
- $250 for rent
- $34 for a credit payment on furniture

Her flexible monthly expenses include:
- $100 for savings
- $20 for telephone
- $175 for food
- $45 for transportation (bus fare)
- $70 for tuition
- $20 for school supplies
- $40 for clothing
- $40 for entertainment
- $20 for household supplies
- $29 for personal items

If Rose gets a car, she expects to spend about $60 a month on gas and oil, and about $30 on parking and tolls.

If Rose gets a car, she will need car insurance. She expects her car insurance premium to be about $175 a month.

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1. How much can Rose afford for a monthly car payment?
   $156

2. If he took a 60-month loan on a $6,000 car at 10%, how far would she be under budget?
   $28.87