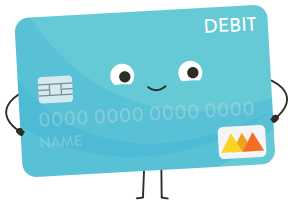
Comparing CARDS

IT'S A MONEY THING®

AT A GLANCE

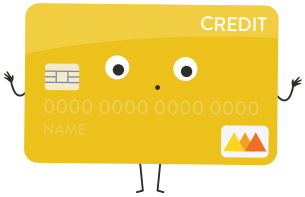
DEBIT CARD

Linked to your **checking account**. Think of it like an instant personal check. Transactions are taken out of your account right away.



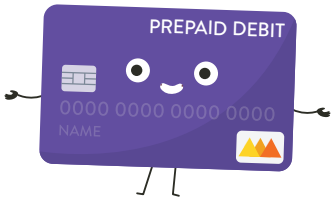
CREDIT CARD

Gives you access to a **line of credit**. Think of it like a convenient way to borrow money. Transactions are covered by the card issuer or financial institution, and you then have to pay them back at a later date.



PREPAID DEBIT CARD

Not linked to an account or a line of credit. Think of it like cash, but in card form. It can only access the funds already loaded onto it.



PROS AND CONS

- \+ Affordable
- \+ Easy to access and manage
- − Overdraft fees
- − Holds can be placed on your card when buying gas or reserving a car or hotel

- \+ Some cards offer attractive rewards programs
- \+ Builds credit score when used responsibly
- − Easy to overspend, which results in carrying a balance and paying interest on the outstanding balance

- \+ No approval process; anyone can own one
- \+ Can be handy for travel
- − Fees can add up quickly
- − Not all prepaid cards are protected from loss or theft

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR CARDS

No matter what combination of cards you use, your financial behavior determines whether you're making the most of them (or letting them get the best of you).



Stay organized. Forgetting about a credit card bill could translate into a hefty late fee, a high interest rate or real damage to your credit score. If you ignore your checking account statements, you could accidentally overdraw your account and be hit with an overdraft fee. Whether it means getting a new filing cabinet or setting up online banking, organization is the key. Make it happen!



Ask questions and read the fine print. Understand the ins and outs of your cards. Is there a transaction limit on your debit card that you should be looking out for? Does your credit card provide you with an extended warranty on purchases that you could be taking advantage of? Get to know your cards in order to maximize benefits as well as to avoid unnecessary penalty fees.



Did you know that most credit cards today are made out of **polyvinyl chloride**, also known as **PVC**?

That's the same material used to make PVC pipe and vinyl records!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

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