

INTERACTIVE: Navigate Your Online Bank Account (Short Version)

Interactive: [NGPF Online Bank Simulation](#)

****Note that this is a *simulation* and you should NOT use any of your actual bank account information at any point!****

It's Saturday morning, and you leap out of bed because it's time to...

CHECK YOUR ONLINE BANK ACCOUNT! YES!!!!

Part I: Set up your account

You've just opened a checking and savings account at a local bank earlier this month with a deposit of \$250 in each account. Access the [NGPF OnlineBank Simulator](#) and set up your digital account for the first time by clicking [Create an Account](#) in the upper right and following the prompts.

For the ALERT section, **IF THE CHECKING OR SAVINGS ACCOUNT FALLS BELOW 200.** Then, log in using your new account details you just set.

Part II: Do Some Online Banking

In the upper right, set the [SIMULATION DATE](#) to January 17, and push **GO**. Navigate to [Account Activity](#) to see what's happened this month in your [Checking Account](#).

1. What is your current balance in the Checking Account? Is it more or less than you started the month with?

To get in the full swing of things with online banking, you set up *direct deposit* with your job at Burger Bucket. You want to verify that it's working correctly: You're supposed to be paid twice a month.

2. Did your direct deposit work correctly? If so, what days did you receive your pay? How large was each deposit?

3. What fee(s) have you incurred on your account so far? How could you prevent them from happening in the future?

You want to make sure your account reflects the spending you've actually done, so you pull receipts out of your clothes pockets from the last two weeks and find two for Cool Snacks, one for Cafe Club, one from a sale at Clothing Rack, and an ATM slip for a withdrawal of \$30.

4. Are there any items reflected on your Account Activity that you can't account for? What are they?

5. What *might* be a plausible explanation for the extra entry? Give at least two possibilities.

Switch over to the Account Activity for your Savings Account.

6. What's happened so far in your Savings Account?

Hmmm, thinking back to your personal finance course, you remember you should "pay yourself first" by regularly contributing some of your income to your Savings Account. Use the Make a Transfer feature to move \$35 from your Checking Account into your Savings Account.

7. How much is in your Savings Account now?

8. What is the new balance in your Checking Account?

You're working part-time, you've got your own bank accounts... It's time to finally subscribe to online streaming TV and movies from GetFlix at a monthly cost of \$11. You can't be bothered to remember to pay your bill on-time every month, so use [Pay a Bill](#) and follow the prompts onscreen to set up auto payment to GetFlix, 2000 Maple Street, Anytown, PA 15068. Your payment is **due** the first of every month.

9. For what date did you set your first bill pay to GetFlix? After seeing the ALERT that appears, will your bill be paid in time for February 1st?



Fast Forward ▶▶▶

▶▶ **Change the SIMULATION DATE to**

▶▶ **May 17** and push **GO**

Part III: A Few Months Later...

Online checking is SO easy, you realize it's mid-May and you haven't monitored your account as closely as you had intended to. Log into your [Savings Account](#).

10. Describe what transactions you see in your Savings Account since opening it in January.

11. You intended to "pay yourself first" with \$35 into your savings account every month, but it looks like that's not happening regularly. What could you do to fix the problem?

You've just gotten your driver's license, and your parents say you're responsible for paying NoRisk Insurance Co (4000 Maple Street, Anytown, PA 15068) a \$250 premium payment in order to be added to their account. The sooner you pay, the sooner you can start driving. You'll need to pay this amount every 6 months. Use [Pay a Bill](#) to make the payment today (be sure to set the bill pay calendar to today's date, May 17).

12. Did you set up a Single or Monthly payment? Why did you make this choice?

UH OH! You receive a text on your phone telling you to check the Notification zone for an important alert. Head there now.

13. What do you see in your notifications?

Worried about your Checking Account balance, go check your Account Activity.

14. **Should** you be worried? Why or why not?

15. Give one short-term and one long-term priority you have for your online bank accounts. Explain why you chose these goals and how you plan to achieve them.