

Lesson 7.6 Notes (Growth and Decay)**Objectives:**

- Solve problems involving exponential growth.
- Solve problems involving exponential decay.

Exponential Growth – an initial amount increases at a steady rate (same percent) over time

$$y = a(1 + r)^t$$

a is the initial amount. *t* is time.
y is the final amount. *r* is the rate of change expressed as a decimal, $r > 0$.

1. The prize for a radio contest begins with a \$100 gift card. Each day, a name is announced. The winner has 5 minutes to call or the prize increases by 2.5% the next day.

- a. Write an equation to represent the amount of the gift card in dollars after t days with no winners.

$$y = 100(1 + 0.025)^t$$

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- b. How much will the gift card be worth if no one wins after 10 days?

$$y = 100(1.025)^{10} \approx \$128.01$$

2. A college's tuition has risen 5% each year since 2000. The tuition in 2000 was \$10,850.

- a. Write an equation for the amount of the tuition t years after 2000.

$$y = 10,850(1 + 0.05)^t$$

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- b. Predict the cost of tuition for this college in 2015.

$$y = 10,850(1.05)^{15} \approx \$22,556.37$$

Compound Interest – interest earned on the initial investment and previously earned interest

$$A = P\left(1 + \frac{r}{n}\right)^{nt}$$

A is the current amount. *n* is the number of times the interest is compounded each year, and *t* is time in years.
P is the principal or initial amount. *r* is the annual interest rate expressed as a decimal, $r > 0$.

3. Maria's parents invested \$14,000 at 6% per year compounded monthly. How much money will there be in the account after 10 years?

$$A = P \left(1 + \frac{r}{n}\right)^{nt}$$

$$= 14,000 \left(1 + \frac{.06}{12}\right)^{12(10)} = 14,000 (1.005)^{120}$$

$$\approx \boxed{\$25,471.55}$$

4. Determine the amount of an investment if \$300 is invested at an interest rate of 3.5% compounded monthly for 22 years.

$$A = P \left(1 + \frac{r}{n}\right)^{nt}$$

$$= 300 \left(1 + \frac{.035}{12}\right)^{12(22)} = 300 \left(1 + \frac{.035}{12}\right)^{264}$$

$$\approx \boxed{\$647.26}$$

Exponential Decay – an initial amount decreases at a steady rate (same percent) over time

Ex. Radioactive decay and depreciation

a is the initial amount. t is time. $y = a(1 - r)^t$ y is the final amount. r is the rate of decay expressed as a decimal, $0 < r < 1$.
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5. A raft for a pool is losing 6.6% of its air every day. The raft originally contained 4500 cubic inches of air.

- a. Write an equation to represent the loss of air.

$$y = 4500(1 - .066)^t \Rightarrow \boxed{y = 4500(.934)^t}$$

- b. Estimate the amount of air in the raft after 7 days.

$$y = 4500(.934)^7 = \boxed{2790 \text{ cubic inches}}$$

6. The population has been decreasing at an average rate of about 0.3% per year. In 2000, the population was 88,647.

- a. Write an equation to represent the population since 2000.

$$y = 88,647(1 - .003)^t \Rightarrow \boxed{y = 88,647(.997)^t}$$

- b. If the trend continues, predict the population in 2010.

$$y = 88,647(.997)^{10} \approx \boxed{86,023}$$