

Reflection on Week 1

This week provided a structured introduction to the fundamentals of finance, allowing me to build a clearer and more analytical understanding of key financial principles. While I had a basic awareness of concepts like banking and money management, breaking them down through structured resources offered deeper insights into how these systems function at both individual and institutional levels.

One of the most impactful takeaways was the **time value of money (TVM)**, explored in the **Khan Academy readings and videos**. The idea that money today holds greater value than the same amount in the future due to its earning potential has broad implications, from investment strategies to corporate financial planning. This reinforced why businesses prioritize cash flow management and why individuals are encouraged to invest rather than hold cash. Another key concept was **credit creation and the role of banks**, covered in the **Kurzgesagt video and Investopedia articles**. I had previously viewed banks primarily as institutions that store and transfer money, but understanding how they expand the money supply through lending mechanisms reshaped my perspective. This concept ties into larger economic policies and financial stability, which I now recognize as critical factors influencing both personal finance and global economies.

What stood out the most was how finance is not an isolated field but one that intersects with **technology, policy, and global markets**. Given my background in technology, I now see fintech as a domain where these disciplines converge. The structured approach of this week's resources has given me a strong foundation, and I look forward to applying these learnings in more specialized areas such as **financial modelling and trading strategies** in the coming weeks.