

The background of the cover is a deep red with intricate, swirling teal patterns that resemble smoke or stylized clouds. On the right side, three large, red, spherical lanterns are stacked vertically, each with a visible internal frame and a small flame at the top. In the top left corner, there is a teal rectangular box containing the publisher's name in white and lowercase letters.

weygandt
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kieso

team for success

Financial
ACCOUNTING
IFRS EDITION **2e**

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Chapter 2

The Recording Process

Learning Objectives

After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

- [1] Explain what an account is and how it helps in the recording process.
- [2] Define debits and credits and explain their use in recording business transactions.
- [3] Identify the basic steps in the recording process.
- [4] Explain what a journal is and how it helps in the recording process.
- [5] Explain what a ledger is and how it helps in the recording process.
- [6] Explain what posting is and how it helps in the recording process.
- [7] Prepare a trial balance and explain its purposes.

Preview of Chapter 2

THE RECORDING PROCESS			
The Account	Steps in the Recording Process	The Recording Process Illustrated	The Trial Balance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Debits and credits• Equity relationships• Summary of debit/credit rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Journal• Ledger• Posting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summary illustration of journalizing and posting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limitations of a trial balance• Locating errors• Use of currency signs

Financial Accounting
IFRS Second Edition
Weygandt • Kimmel • Kieso

The Account

Account



- ◆ Record of increases and decreases in a specific asset, liability, equity, revenue, or expense item.
- ◆ Debit = “Left”
- ◆ Credit = “Right”

An account can be illustrated in a T-account form.



Account Name	
Debit / Dr.	Credit / Cr.

The Account

Debits and Credits

Double-entry system

- ▶ Each transaction must affect two or more accounts to keep the basic accounting equation in balance.
- ▶ Recording done by debiting at least one account and crediting another.
- ▶ **DEBITS must equal CREDITS.**

Debits and Credits

If Debit amounts are **greater than** Credit amounts, the account will have a debit balance.



	Account Name		
	Debit / Dr.	Credit / Cr.	
Transaction #1	\$10,000	\$3,000	Transaction #2
Transaction #3	8,000		
Balance	\$15,000		

Debits and Credits

If Debit amounts are **less than** Credit amounts, the account will have a credit balance.



	Account Name		
	Debit / Dr.	Credit / Cr.	
Transaction #1	\$10,000	\$3,000	Transaction #2
		8,000	Transaction #3
Balance		\$1,000	

Debits and Credits

Assets	
Debit / Dr.	Credit / Cr.
	
Normal Balance	

Chapter 3-23

- ◆ **Assets** - Debits should exceed credits.
- ◆ **Liabilities** – Credits should exceed debits.
- ◆ **Normal balance** is on the increase side.

Liabilities	
Debit / Dr.	Credit / Cr.
	
	Normal Balance

Chapter 3-24

Debits and Credits

Equity	
Debit / Dr.	Credit / Cr.
↓	↑
	Normal Balance

Chapter 3-25

- ◆ **Issuance of share capital** and **revenues** increase equity (credit).
- ◆ **Dividends** and **expenses** decrease equity (debit).

Share Capital		
Debit / Dr.	Credit / Cr.	
↓	↑	
	Normal Balance	

Chapter 3-25



Retained Earnings		
Debit / Dr.	Credit / Cr.	
↓	↑	
	Normal Balance	

Chapter 3-25



Dividends		
Debit / Dr.	Credit / Cr.	
↑	↓	
Normal Balance		

Chapter 3-23

Debits and Credits

Revenue	
Debit / Dr.	Credit / Cr.
	
	Normal Balance

Chapter 3-26

Expense	
Debit / Dr.	Credit / Cr.
	
Normal Balance	

Chapter 3-27



- ◆ The purpose of earning **revenues** is to benefit the shareholders.
- ◆ The effect of debits and credits on revenue accounts is the **same as** their effect on equity.
- ◆ **Expenses** have the opposite effect: expenses decrease equity.

Debit/Credit Rules



Normal
Balance
Debit

Normal
Balance
Credit

Liabilities



Debit / Dr.	Credit / Cr.
	
	Normal Balance

Assets

Debit / Dr.	Credit / Cr.
	
Normal Balance	



Chapter
3-23

Equity

Debit / Dr.	Credit / Cr.
	
	Normal Balance



Chapter
3-25

Expense

Debit / Dr.	Credit / Cr.
	
Normal Balance	

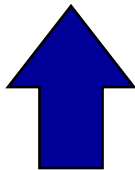
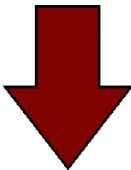
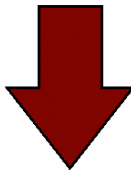
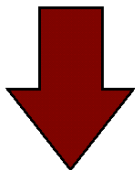
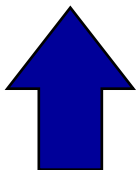





Chapter
3-27

Revenue

Debit / Dr.	Credit / Cr.
	
	Normal Balance

Chapter
3-26

Debit/Credit Rules

	Statement of Financial Position			Income Statement	
	<u>Asset</u>	=	<u>Liability</u> + <u>Equity</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	- <u>Expense</u>
Debit			 		
Credit			 		

Debit/Credit Rules

Question

Debits:

- a. increase both assets and liabilities.
- b. decrease both assets and liabilities.
- ☒ c. increase assets and decrease liabilities.
- d. decrease assets and increase liabilities.

Debit/Credit Rules

Question

Accounts that normally have debit balances are:

- a. assets, expenses, and revenues.
- b. assets, expenses, and equity.
- c. assets, liabilities, and dividends.
- ☒ d. assets, dividends, and expenses.

INVESTOR INSIGHT



Keeping Score

The **Manchester United** (GBR) football (soccer) club probably has these major revenue and expense accounts:

Revenues

Admissions (ticket sales)
Concessions
Television and radio
Advertising

Expenses

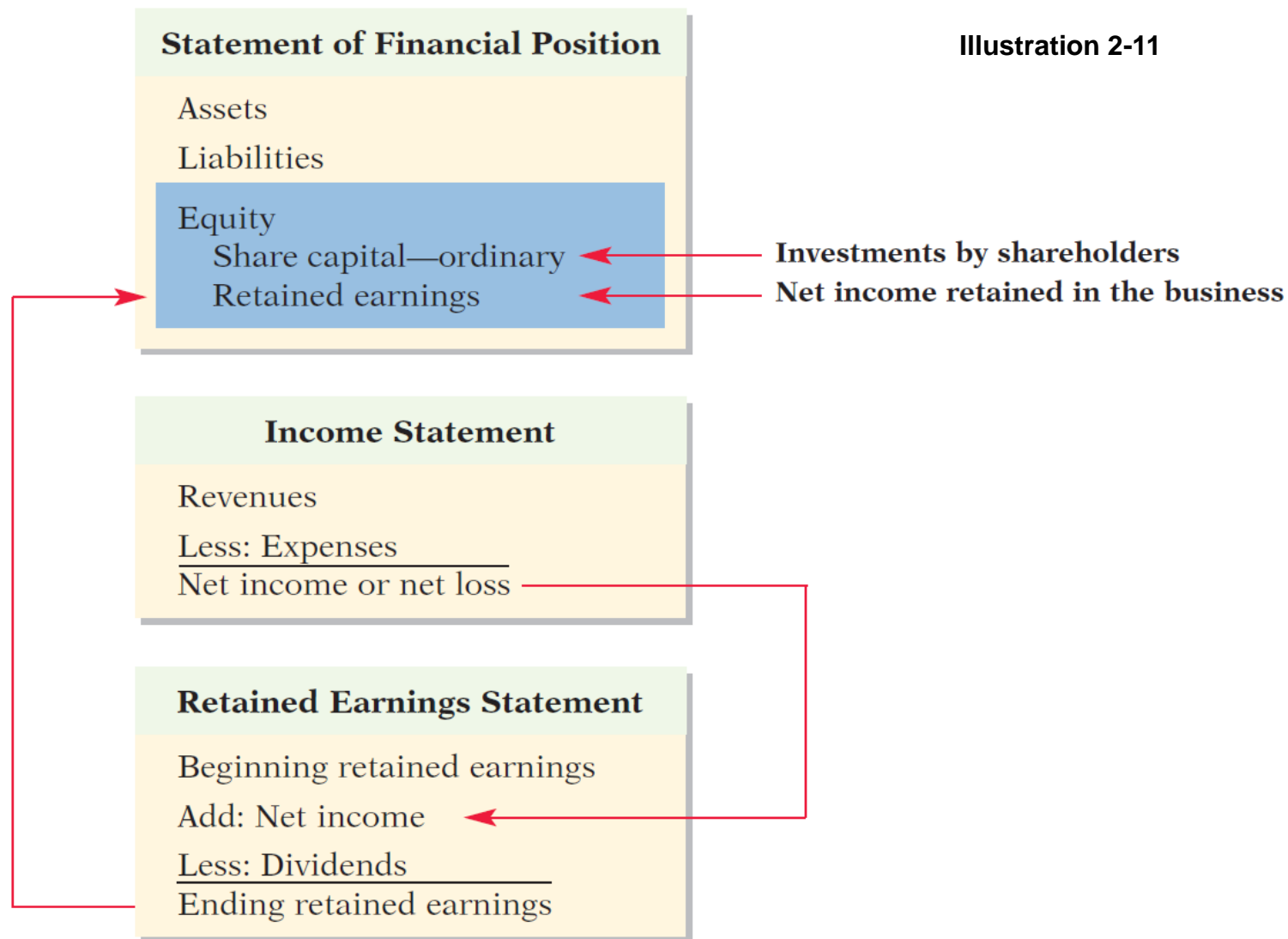
Players' salaries
Administrative salaries
Travel
Stadium maintenance



Do you think that the **Chicago Bears** (USA) American football team would be likely to have the same major revenue and expense accounts as Manchester United?



Equity Relationships



Summary of Debit/Credit Rules

Relationship among the assets, liabilities and equity of a business:

Illustration 2-12

Basic Equation

Assets = Liabilities + Equity

Expanded Equation

Debit/Credit Effects

Assets	=	Liabilities	+	Share Capital	+	Retained Earnings	-	Dividends	+	Revenues	-	Expenses
Dr. + Cr. -		Dr. - Cr. +		Dr. - Cr. +		Dr. - Cr. +		Dr. + Cr. -		Dr. - Cr. +		Dr. + Cr. -

The equation must be in balance after every transaction.
For every **Debit** there must be a **Credit**.



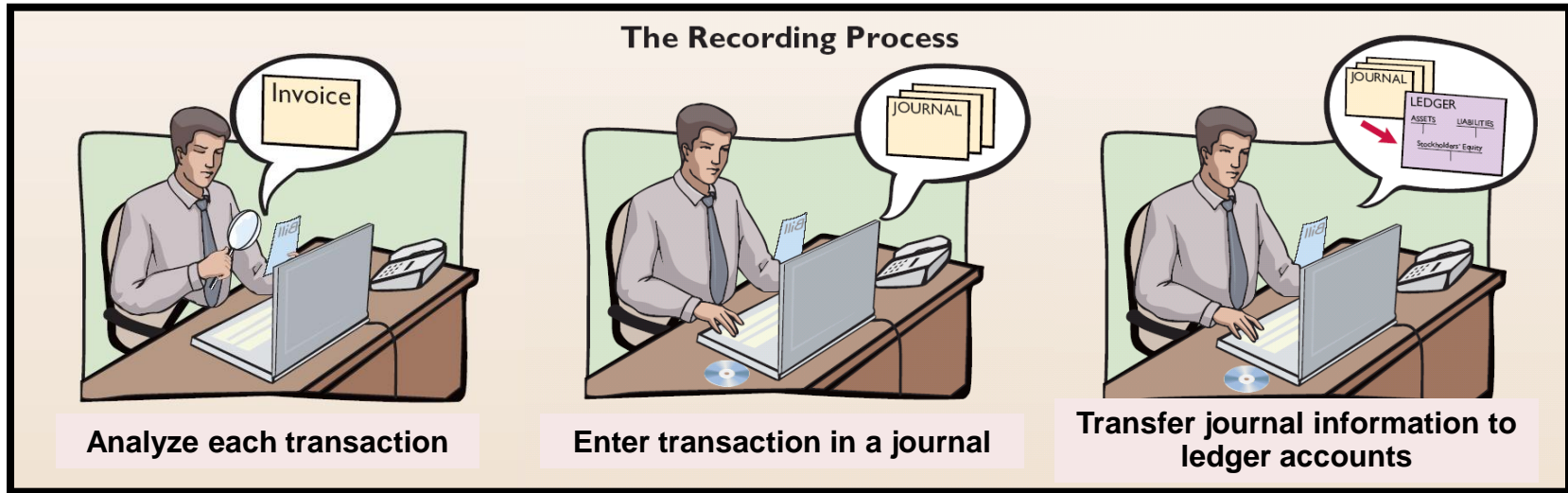
DO IT!

Kate Browne, president of Hair It Is, Inc., has just rented space in a shopping mall in which she will open and operate a beauty salon. A friend has advised Kate to set up a double-entry set of accounting records in which to record all of her business transactions. Identify the balance sheet accounts that Hair It Is, Inc., will likely need to record the transactions needed to establish and open the business. Also, indicate whether the normal balance of each account is a debit or a credit.

Assets	Liabilities	Equity
Cash (debit)	Notes payable (credit)	Share capital (credit)
Supplies (debit)	Accounts payable (credit)	
Equipment (debit)		

Steps in the Recording Process

Illustration 2-13



Business documents, such as a sales slip, a check, a bill, or a cash register tape, provide evidence of the transaction.

Steps in the Recording Process

The Journal

- ◆ Book of original entry.
- ◆ Transactions recorded in chronological order.
- ◆ Contributions to the recording process:
 1. Discloses the **complete effects of a transaction**.
 2. Provides a **chronological record** of transactions.
 3. Helps to **prevent or locate errors** because the debit and credit amounts can be easily compared.

Steps in the Recording Process

Journalizing - Entering transaction data in the journal.

Illustration: On September 1, shareholders' invested €15,000 cash in the corporation in exchange for share of stock, and Softbyte purchased computer equipment for €7,000 cash.

Illustration 2-14

General Journal				
Date	Account Title	Ref.	Debit	Credit
Sept. 1	Cash		15,000	
	Share capital-ordinary			15,000
	Equipment		7,000	
	Cash			7,000

Steps in the Recording Process

Simple and Compound Entries

Illustration: On July 1, Tsai Company purchases a delivery truck costing NT\$420,000. It pays NT\$240,000 cash now and agrees to pay the remaining NT\$180,000 on account.

Illustration 2-15

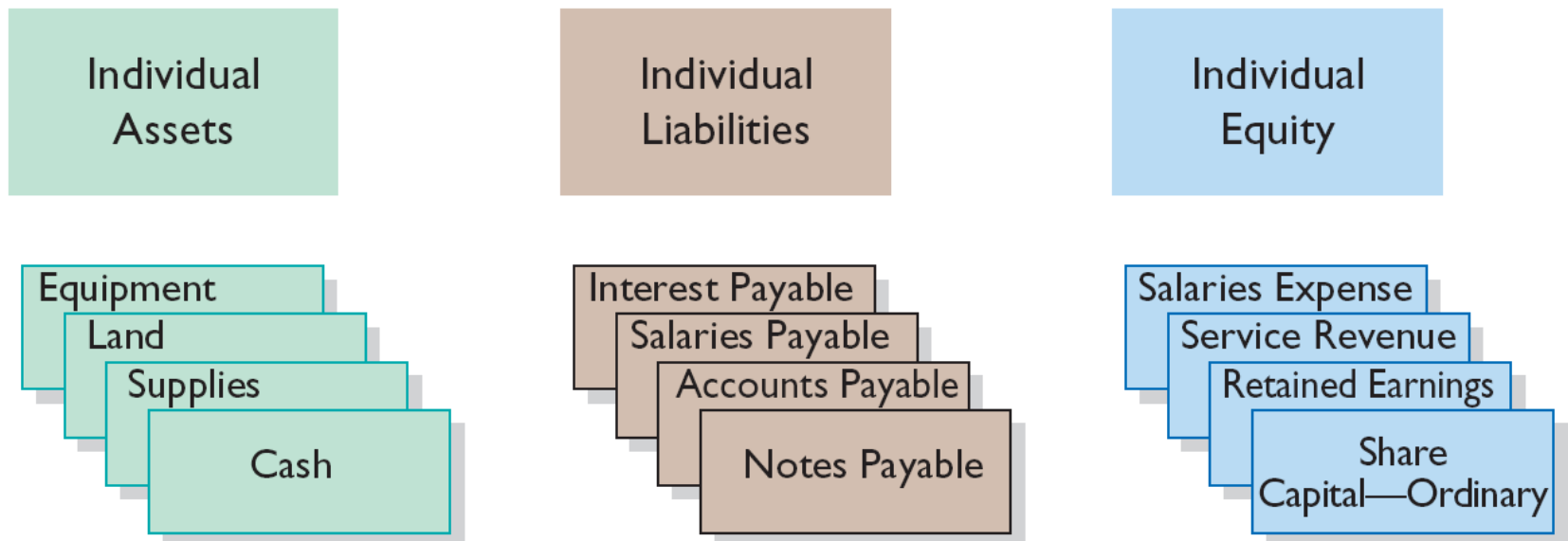
General Journal				
Date	Account Title	Ref.	Debit	Credit
July 1	Equipment		420,000	
	Cash			240,000
	Accounts payable			180,000

Steps in the Recording Process

The Ledger

- ◆ **General Ledger** contains the entire group of accounts maintained by a company.

Illustration 2-16



ACCOUNTING ACROSS THE ORGANIZATION



What Would Sam Do?

In his autobiography Sam Walton described the double-entry accounting system he used when **Wal-Mart** was just getting started: “We kept a little pigeonhole on the wall for the cash receipts and paperwork of each [Wal-Mart] store. I had a blue binder ledger book for each store. When we added a store, we added a pigeonhole. We did this at least up to twenty stores. Then once a month, the bookkeeper and I would enter the merchandise, enter the sales, enter the cash, and balance it.”

Source: Sam Walton, Made in America (New York: Doubleday, 1992), p. 53.



Why did Sam Walton keep separate pigeonholes and blue binders? Why bother to keep separate records for each store?



Steps in the Recording Process

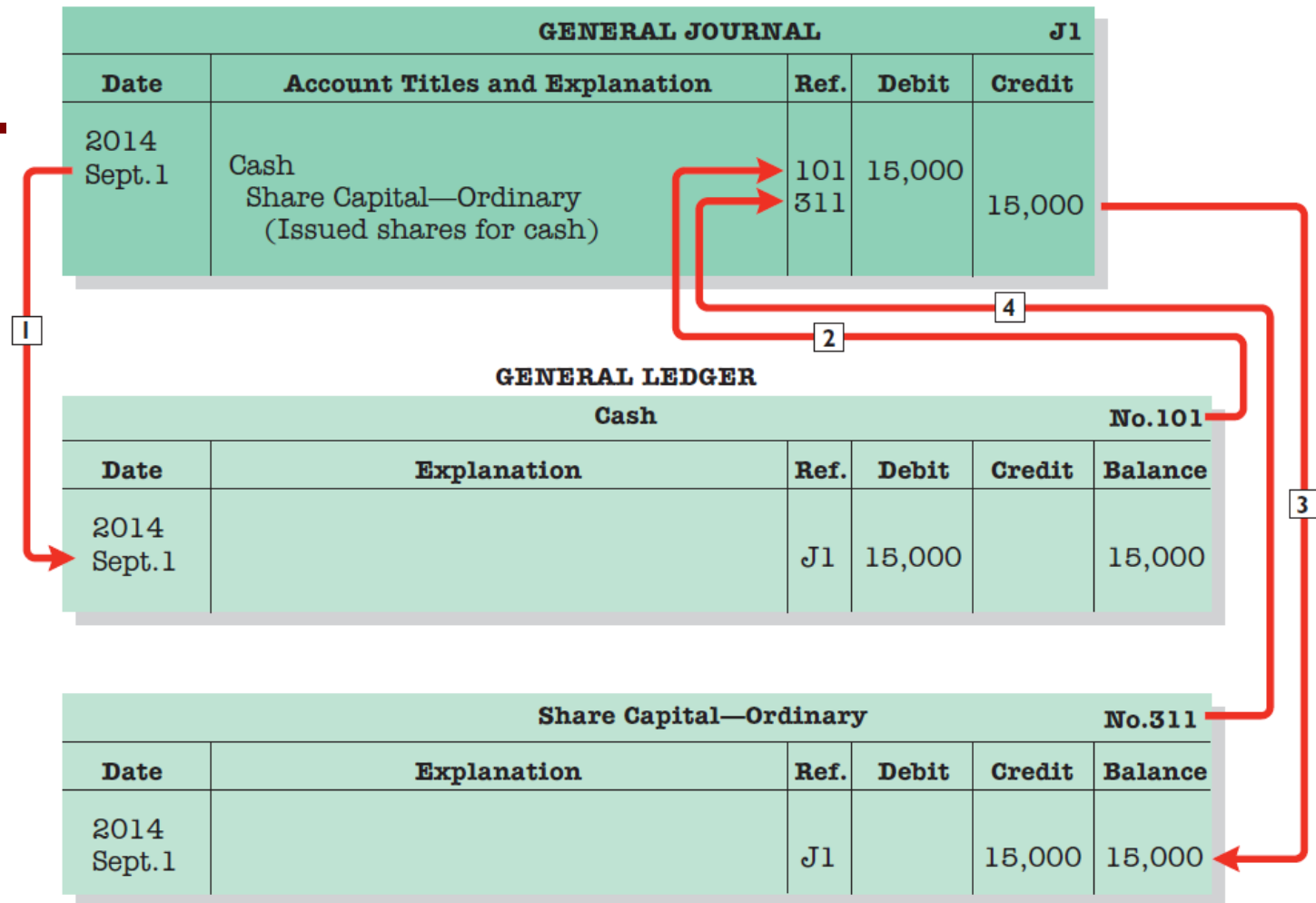
Standard Form of Account

Illustration 2-17

Cash					No. 101
Date	Explanation	Ref.	Debit	Credit	Balance
2014					
June 1			25,000		25,000
2				8,000	17,000
3			4,200		21,200
9			7,500		28,700
17				11,700	17,000
20				250	16,750
30				7,300	9,450

Steps

Posting –
process of
transferring
amounts from
the journal to
the ledger
accounts.



- Key:
- 1 Post to debit account—date, journal page number, and amount.
 - 2 Enter debit account number in journal reference column.
 - 3 Post to credit account—date, journal page number, and amount.
 - 4 Enter credit account number in journal reference column.

Illustration 2-18

Posting

Question

Posting:

- a. normally occurs before journalizing.
- b. transfers ledger transaction data to the journal.
- c. is an optional step in the recording process.
- ☒ d. transfers journal entries to ledger accounts.

Chart of Accounts

Accounts and account numbers arranged in sequence in which they are presented in the financial statements.

Illustration 2-19

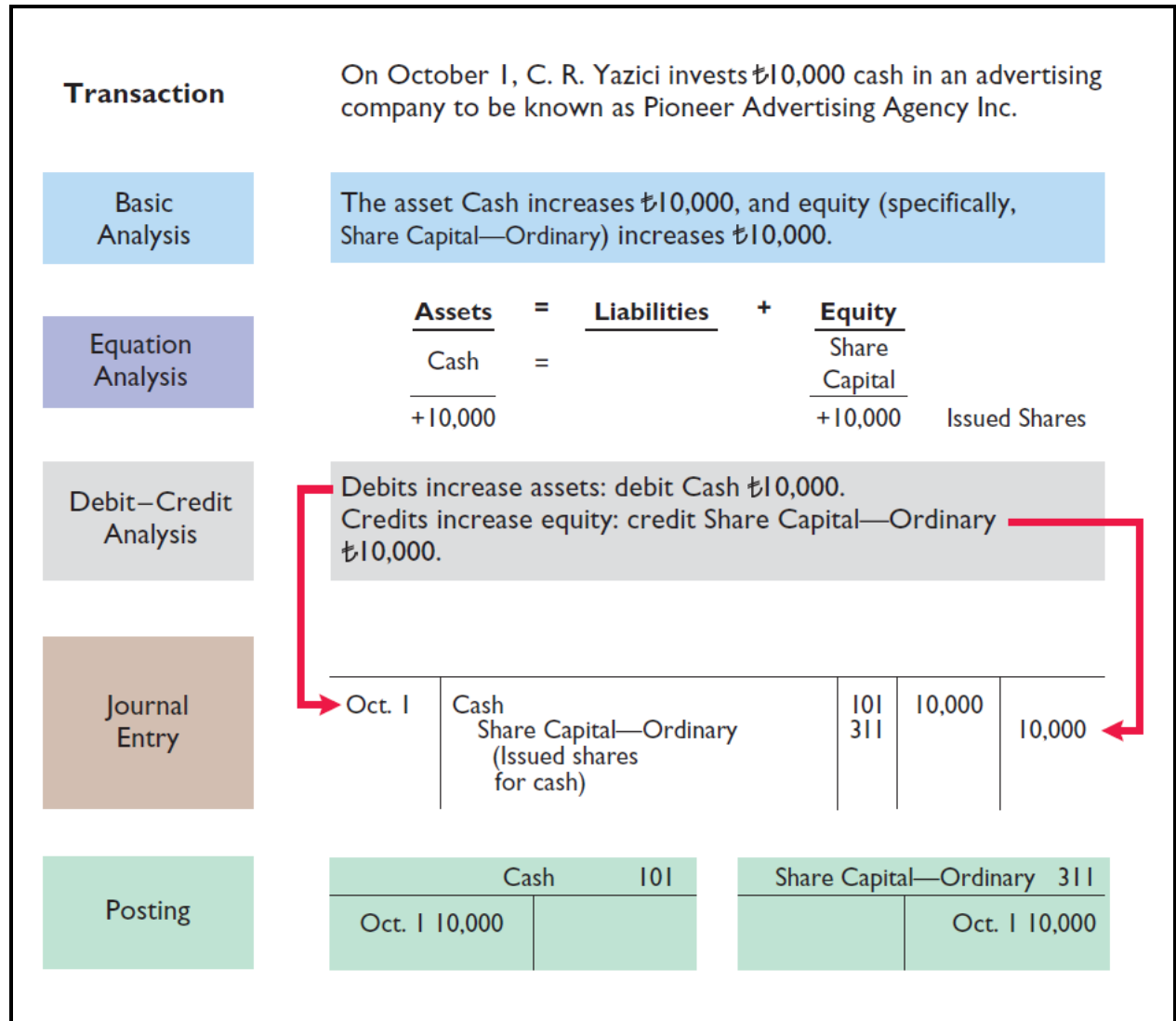
Pioneer Advertising Agency Inc. Chart of Accounts	
Assets	Equity
101 Cash	311 Share Capital—Ordinary
112 Accounts Receivable	320 Retained Earnings
126 Supplies	332 Dividends
130 Prepaid Insurance	350 Income Summary
157 Equipment	
158 Accumulated Depreciation— Equipment	Revenues
	400 Service Revenue
Liabilities	Expenses
200 Notes Payable	631 Supplies Expense
201 Accounts Payable	711 Depreciation Expense
209 Unearned Service Revenue	722 Insurance Expense
212 Salaries and Wages Payable	726 Salaries and Wages Expense
230 Interest Payable	729 Rent Expense
	732 Utilities Expense
	905 Interest Expense

The Recording Process Illustrated

Follow these steps:

1. Determine what type of account is involved.
2. Determine what items increased or decreased and by how much.
3. Translate the increases and decreases into debits and credits.

Illustration 2-20



The Recording Process Illustrated

Illustration 2-21

Transaction

On October 1, Pioneer purchases office equipment costing ₪5,000 by signing a 3-month, 12%, ₪5,000 note payable.

Basic Analysis

The asset Equipment increases ₪5,000, and the liability Notes Payable increases ₪5,000.

Equation Analysis

<u>Assets</u>	=	<u>Liabilities</u>	+	<u>Equity</u>
Equipment	=	Notes Payable		
+5,000		+5,000		

Debit–Credit Analysis

Debits increase assets: debit Equipment ₪5,000.
Credits increase liabilities: credit Notes Payable ₪5,000.

Journal Entry

Oct. 1	Equipment	157	5,000	
	Notes Payable	200		5,000
	(Issued 3-month, 12% note for office equipment)			

Posting

Equipment		157	Notes Payable		200
Oct. 1	5,000			Oct. 1	5,000

The Recording Process Illustrated

Illustration 2-22

Transaction	On October 2, Pioneer receives a ₺1,200 cash advance from R. Knox, a client, for advertising services that are expected to be completed by December 31.																			
Basic Analysis	The asset Cash increases ₺1,200; the liability Unearned Service Revenue increases ₺1,200 because the service has not been provided yet. That is, when Pioneer receives an advance payment, it should record an unearned revenue (a liability) in order to recognize the obligation that exists. Note also that although many liabilities have the word “payable” in their title, unearned revenue is considered a liability even though the word payable is not used.																			
Equation Analysis	<table><tr><td><u>Assets</u></td><td>=</td><td><u>Liabilities</u></td><td>+</td><td><u>Equity</u></td></tr><tr><td>Cash</td><td>=</td><td>Unearned Service Revenue</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>+1,200</td><td></td><td>+1,200</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>					<u>Assets</u>	=	<u>Liabilities</u>	+	<u>Equity</u>	Cash	=	Unearned Service Revenue			+1,200		+1,200		
<u>Assets</u>	=	<u>Liabilities</u>	+	<u>Equity</u>																
Cash	=	Unearned Service Revenue																		
+1,200		+1,200																		
Debit–Credit Analysis	<div>Debits increase assets: debit Cash ₺1,200.</div> <div>Credits increase liabilities: credit Unearned Service Revenue ₺1,200.</div>																			
Journal Entry	Oct. 2	Cash Unearned Service Revenue (Received cash from R. Knox for future service)	101 209	1,200	1,200															
Posting	<table><tr><td colspan="2">Cash</td><td>101</td></tr><tr><td>Oct. 1</td><td>10,000</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>1,200</td><td></td></tr></table>		Cash		101	Oct. 1	10,000		2	1,200		<table><tr><td colspan="2">Unearned Service Revenue</td><td>209</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Oct. 2</td><td>1,200</td></tr></table>			Unearned Service Revenue		209		Oct. 2	1,200
Cash		101																		
Oct. 1	10,000																			
2	1,200																			
Unearned Service Revenue		209																		
	Oct. 2	1,200																		

The Recording Process Illustrated

Illustration 2-23

Transaction

On October 3, Pioneer pays office rent for October in cash, ₪900.

Basic Analysis

Rent Expense increases ₪900 because the payment pertains only to the current month; the asset Cash decreases ₪900.

Equation Analysis

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 \text{Assets} & = & \text{Liabilities} + \text{Equity} \\
 \hline
 \text{Cash} & = & \text{Expenses} \\
 -900 & & -900 \quad \text{Rent Expense}
 \end{array}$$

Debit–Credit Analysis

Debits increase expenses: debit Rent Expense ₪900.
Credits decrease assets: credit Cash ₪900.

Journal Entry

Oct. 3	Rent Expense	729	900	
	Cash	101		900
	(Paid October rent)			

Posting

Cash		101	Rent Expense		729
Oct. 1	10,000		Oct. 3	900	
2	1,200				

The Recording Process Illustrated

Illustration 2-24

Transaction	On October 4, Pioneer pays ₺600 for a one-year insurance policy that will expire next year on September 30.																						
Basic Analysis	The asset Prepaid Insurance increases ₺600 because the payment extends to more than the current month; the asset Cash decreases ₺600. Payments of expenses that will benefit more than one accounting period are prepaid expenses or prepayments. When a company makes a payment, it debits an asset account in order to show the service or benefit that will be received in the future.																						
Equation Analysis	<table> <tr> <th colspan="2">Assets</th><th>=</th><th>Liabilities</th><th>+</th><th>Equity</th></tr> <tr> <td>Cash</td><td>+ Prepaid Insurance</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>-600</td><td>+600</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>					Assets		=	Liabilities	+	Equity	Cash	+ Prepaid Insurance					-600	+600				
Assets		=	Liabilities	+	Equity																		
Cash	+ Prepaid Insurance																						
-600	+600																						
Debit–Credit Analysis	Debits increase assets: debit Prepaid Insurance ₺600. Credits decrease assets: credit Cash ₺600.																						
Journal Entry	Oct. 4	Prepaid Insurance Cash (Paid one-year policy; effective date October 1)	130 101	600	600																		
Posting	<table> <tr> <th colspan="2">Cash</th><th>101</th><th colspan="2">Prepaid Insurance</th><th>130</th></tr> <tr> <td>Oct. 1</td><td>10,000</td><td>Oct. 3</td><td>900</td><td>Oct. 4</td><td>600</td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>1,200</td><td>4</td><td>600</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>					Cash		101	Prepaid Insurance		130	Oct. 1	10,000	Oct. 3	900	Oct. 4	600	2	1,200	4	600		
Cash		101	Prepaid Insurance		130																		
Oct. 1	10,000	Oct. 3	900	Oct. 4	600																		
2	1,200	4	600																				

The Recording Process Illustrated

Illustration 2-25

Transaction

On October 5, Pioneer purchases an estimated 3-month supply of advertising materials on account from Aero Supply for ₺2,500.

Basic Analysis

The asset Supplies increases ₺2,500; the liability Accounts Payable increases ₺2,500.

Equation Analysis

<u>Assets</u>	=	<u>Liabilities</u>	+	<u>Equity</u>
Supplies	=	Accounts Payable		
+2,500		+2,500		

Debit – Credit Analysis

Debits increase assets: debit Supplies ₺2,500.
Credits increase liabilities: credit Accounts Payable ₺2,500.

Journal Entry

Oct. 5	Supplies	126	2,500	
	Accounts Payable	201		2,500
	(Purchased supplies on account from Aero Supply)			

Posting

Supplies		126	Accounts Payable		201
Oct. 5	2,500			Oct. 5	2,500

The Recording Process Illustrated

Illustration 2-26

Event

On October 9, Pioneer hires four employees to begin work on October 15. Each employee is to receive a weekly salary of ₺500 for a 5-day work week, payable every 2 weeks—first payment made on October 26.

Basic Analysis

A business transaction has not occurred. There is only an agreement between the employer and the employees to enter into a business transaction beginning on October 15. Thus, a debit–credit analysis is not needed because there is no accounting entry. (See transaction of October 26 for first entry.)

The Recording Process Illustrated

Illustration 2-27

Transaction

On October 20, Pioneer's board of directors declares and pays a ₪500 cash dividend to shareholders.

Basic Analysis

The Dividends account increases ₪500; the asset Cash decreases ₪500.

Equation Analysis

<u>Assets</u>	=	<u>Liabilities</u>	+	<u>Equity</u>
Cash	=			Dividends
-500				-500

Debit-Credit Analysis

Debits increase dividends: debit Dividends ₪500.
Credits decrease assets: credit Cash ₪500.

Journal Entry

Oct. 20	Dividends	332	500	
	Cash	101		500
	(Declared and paid a cash dividend)			

Posting

Cash		101	Dividends		332
Oct. 1	10,000	Oct. 3	900	Oct. 20	500
2	1,200	4	600		
		20	500		

The Recording Process Illustrated

Illustration 2-28

Transaction

On October 26, Pioneer owes employee salaries of ₪4,000 and pays them in cash. (See October 9 transaction.)

Basic Analysis

Salaries and Wages Expense increases ₪4,000; the asset Cash decreases ₪4,000.

Equation Analysis

<u>Assets</u>	=	<u>Liabilities</u>	+	<u>Equity</u>	
Cash	=			Expenses	
-4,000				-4,000	Salaries and Wages Expense

Debit–Credit Analysis

Debits increase expenses: debit Salaries and Wages Expense ₪4,000.
Credits decrease assets: credit Cash ₪4,000.

Journal Entry

Oct. 26	Salaries and Wages Expense	726	4,000	
	Cash	101		4,000
	(Paid salaries to date)			

Posting

Cash		101	Salaries and Wages Expense		726
Oct. 1	10,000		Oct. 26	4,000	
2	1,200				
		Oct. 3			
		4			
		600			
		20			
		500			
		26			
		4,000			

The Recording Process Illustrated

Illustration 2-29

Transaction

On October 31, Pioneer receives ₪10,000 in cash from Copa Company for advertising services provided in October.

Basic Analysis

The asset Cash increases ₪10,000; the revenue account Service Revenue increases ₪10,000.

Equation Analysis

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 \text{Assets} & = & \text{Liabilities} + \text{Equity} \\
 \hline
 \text{Cash} & = & \text{Revenues} \\
 +10,000 & & +10,000 \quad \text{Service Revenue}
 \end{array}$$

Debit–Credit Analysis

Debits increase assets: debit Cash ₪10,000.
Credits increase revenues: credit Service Revenue ₪10,000.

Journal Entry

Oct. 31	Cash	101	10,000	
	Service Revenue	400		10,000
	(Received cash for services provided)			

Posting

Cash		101	
Oct. 1	10,000	Oct. 3	900
2	1,200	4	600
31	10,000	20	500
		26	4,000

Service Revenue		400	
		Oct. 31	10,000



DO IT!

Basel Company recorded the following transactions in a general journal during the month of March. Post these entries to the Cash account.

Mar. 4	Cash	2,280	
	Service Revenue		2,280
Mar. 15	Salaries and Wages Expense	400	
	Cash		400
Mar. 19	Utilities Expense	92	
	Cash		92

Cash

3/1	600	

General Ledger

Cash					No. 101
Date	Explanation	Ref.	Debit	Credit	Balance
2014					
Oct. 1		J1	10,000		10,000
2		J1	1,200		11,200
3		J1		900	10,300
4		J1		600	9,700
20		J1		500	9,200
26		J1		4,000	5,200
31		J1	10,000		15,200

Supplies					No. 126
Date	Explanation	Ref.	Debit	Credit	Balance
2014					
Oct. 5		J1	2,500		2,500

Prepaid Insurance					No. 130
Date	Explanation	Ref.	Debit	Credit	Balance
2014					
Oct. 4		J1	600		600

Equipment					No. 157
Date	Explanation	Ref.	Debit	Credit	Balance
2014					
Oct. 1		J1	5,000		5,000

Notes Payable					No. 200
Date	Explanation	Ref.	Debit	Credit	Balance
2014					
Oct. 1		J1		5,000	5,000

Accounts Payable					No. 201
Date	Explanation	Ref.	Debit	Credit	Balance
2014					
Oct. 5		J1		2,500	2,500

Unearned Service Revenue					No. 209
Date	Explanation	Ref.	Debit	Credit	Balance
2014					
Oct. 2		J1		1,200	1,200

Share Capital—Ordinary					No. 311
Date	Explanation	Ref.	Debit	Credit	Balance
2014					
Oct. 1		J1		10,000	10,000

Dividends					No. 332
Date	Explanation	Ref.	Debit	Credit	Balance
2014					
Oct. 20		J1	500		500

Service Revenue					No. 400
Date	Explanation	Ref.	Debit	Credit	Balance
2014					
Oct. 31		J1		10,000	10,000

Salaries and Wages Expense					No. 726
Date	Explanation	Ref.	Debit	Credit	Balance
2014					
Oct. 26		J1	4,000		4,000

Rent Expense					No. 729
Date	Explanation	Ref.	Debit	Credit	Balance
2014					
Oct. 3		J1	900		900

Illustration 2-31

Trial Balance

Pioneer Advertising Agency Inc. Trial Balance October 31, 2014

Illustration 2-32

	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
Cash	₺ 15,200	
Supplies	2,500	
Prepaid Insurance	600	
Equipment	5,000	
Notes Payable		₺ 5,000
Accounts Payable		2,500
Unearned Service Revenue		1,200
Share Capital—Ordinary		10,000
Dividends	500	
Service Revenue		10,000
Salaries and Wages Expense	4,000	
Rent Expense	900	
	<u>₺28,700</u>	<u>₺28,700</u>

Trial Balance

Limitations of a Trial Balance

The trial balance may balance even when

1. a transaction is not journalized,
2. a correct journal entry is not posted,
3. a journal entry is posted twice,
4. incorrect accounts are used in journalizing or posting, or
5. offsetting errors are made in recording the amount of a transaction.

INVESTOR INSIGHT



Why Accuracy Matters

While most companies record transactions very carefully, the reality is that mistakes still happen. For example, bank regulators fined **Bank One Corporation** (now **Chase**) (USA) \$1.8 million because they felt that the unreliability of the bank's accounting system caused it to violate regulatory requirements.

Recently, the German Finance minister, Wolfgang Schauble, said that "statistical and communication problems" were to blame for a €55.5 billion error in the accounts of nationalized property lender **Hypo Real Estate Holding** (DEU). Mr. Schauble referred to the error as "an annoying mistake." This seems to be a considerable understatement considering that the error represented 2.6% of the German gross domestic product. Since the bank had been previously taken over by the German government, the error had resulted in an overstatement of the federal debt of €55.5 billion.



In order for these companies to prepare and issue financial statements, their accounting equations (debits and credits) must have been in balance at year-end. How could these errors or misstatements have occurred?



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