

Credit Card Comparison Challenge

Compare credit card offers and make informed decisions

Your Challenge

Compare three credit card offers below, calculate total costs using the calculator, and then answer scenario-based questions to find the best card for different situations. Understanding APR, fees, and rewards helps you choose the right card and save money.

Your Score

0

out of 4 scenarios

Card A: Cash Back Basic

PURCHASE APR

19.99%

ANNUAL FEE

\$0

CASH BACK

1.5% on all purchases

INTRO APR

0% for 12 months

BALANCE TRANSFER FEE

3% (min \$5)

LATE PAYMENT FEE

Up to \$40

FOREIGN TRANSACTION

3%

Card B: Premium Rewards

PURCHASE APR

17.49% - 24.49%

ANNUAL FEE

\$95

REWARDS

3% dining, 2% groceries, 1% other

INTRO APR

None

SIGN-UP BONUS

\$200 after \$1,000 spent

LATE PAYMENT FEE

Up to \$40

FOREIGN TRANSACTION

0%

Card C: Student Starter

PURCHASE APR

22.99%

ANNUAL FEE

\$0

CASH BACK

1% on all purchases

INTRO APR

0% for 6 months

CREDIT LIMIT

\$500 - \$1,500

LATE PAYMENT FEE

Up to \$35

CREDIT BUILDING

Reports to all 3 bureaus

Cost Calculator

Calculate the total cost of carrying a balance on each card.

Balance Amount (\$)

2000

Repayment Period (months)

12

Monthly Spending (\$)

500

Pay Balance in Full Each Month?

No - Carry a Balance



Scenario Challenges

Select the best card for each situation based on the card features above.

Scenario 1: Balance Transfer

Alex has \$3,000 in credit card debt at 24% APR and wants to transfer it to pay off over 12 months. Which card offers the best option?

Scenario 2: International Travel

Jordan is studying abroad and will spend about \$800/month on food and activities in Europe. They always pay their balance in full. Which card is best?

Scenario 3: Building Credit

Sam is 18 with no credit history and needs to start building credit. They plan to use the card for small purchases (\$50-100/month) and pay in full. Which card is best?

Scenario 4: Heavy Spender

Taylor spends \$400/month on dining out and \$600/month on groceries. They pay in full each month and want to maximize rewards. Which card is best for the first year?

Credit Card Selection Tips

- **If you carry a balance:** Focus on low APR, not rewards. Interest costs will outweigh any rewards earned.
- **If you pay in full:** Focus on rewards that match your spending patterns. APR doesn't matter if you never pay interest.
- **Annual fee cards:** Calculate if rewards exceed the fee. A \$95 fee needs \$95+ in extra rewards to break even.
- **Intro APR offers:** Great for planned large purchases or balance transfers, but have a payoff plan before the rate jumps.
- **Building credit:** Start with no-fee cards, keep utilization below 30%, and always pay on time.