



Accounting Beginner Set

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Debits and credits scare students because nobody tells them the simple truth: it is just sorting. This set makes the accounting equation the anchor, gives students transactions to classify, then lets them run the books of a lemonade stand start to finish. Teacher guide and full answer key here; the anchor chart, sorting cards, mini-project, and vocabulary cards are the student pages. Edit any of it in the Word version.

HOW TO USE IT

Start with the anchor chart on the student pages. Post it or project it, and keep it visible all week. Run the T-account sorting cards as a warm-up or a partner activity, then have students run the lemonade stand as a short mini-project. Hand out the student pages; keep this guide and the answer key for yourself.

THE SET AT A GLANCE

TEACHER

Student piece	What students do	Time
Equation anchor chart	Read and post the accounting equation	10 min
T-account sorting cards	Classify 10 transactions as debit or credit	1 class
Lemonade-stand mini-project	Record six transactions and balance the books	1 class
Vocabulary cards	Match each term to a real example	20 min

THE ONE IDEA TO PROTECT

Debits and credits are not good or bad. Debit just means the left side of an account; credit means the right side. Keep bringing every question back to the equation and the fear disappears.

FACILITATION NOTES

TEACHER

- Do the first sorting card together out loud so students hear the reasoning: which account goes up, and is that a debit or a credit.
- Let students self-check the sorting cards against the anchor chart before you confirm answers.
- On the ledger, line 1 is filled in as a model. If a pair gets stuck, point them back to line 1 rather than giving the answer.
- If the equation does not balance, walk back through the ledger one line at a time to find the transaction recorded on only one side.

T-account sorting cards

For each card: the account that goes UP, and whether that account is debited or credited when it increases.

#	Transaction	Debit (left)	Credit (right)
1	Bought supplies for cash	Supplies (asset up)	Cash (asset down)
2	Owner invested \$500 cash	Cash (asset up)	Owner's equity (up)
3	Made a sale for cash	Cash (asset up)	Revenue (equity up)
4	Paid the rent	Rent expense (up)	Cash (asset down)
5	Took out a \$1,000 loan	Cash (asset up)	Loan payable (liability up)
6	Bought a laptop on credit	Equipment (asset up)	Accounts payable (liability up)
7	Paid a supplier bill	Accounts payable (liability down)	Cash (asset down)
8	Earned cash for a service	Cash (asset up)	Revenue (equity up)
9	Paid the electric bill	Utilities expense (up)	Cash (asset down)
10	Owner took \$100 out	Owner's drawings (equity down)	Cash (asset down)

Note: expenses and drawings reduce equity, so they are recorded as debits. Revenue increases equity, so it is recorded as a credit. This is why the two sides always stay equal.

Step 2. The completed ledger

#	Account affected	Amount	Debit or credit?
1	Cash (asset)	\$40	Debit
1	Owner's equity	\$40	Credit
2	Supplies expense	\$15	Debit
2	Cash (asset)	\$15	Credit
3	Cash (asset)	\$20	Debit
3	Loan payable (liability)	\$20	Credit
4	Cash (asset)	\$35	Debit
4	Revenue	\$35	Credit
5	Permit expense	\$5	Debit
5	Cash (asset)	\$5	Credit
6	Loan payable (liability)	\$10	Debit
6	Cash (asset)	\$10	Credit

Step 3 and 4. The totals and the check

Line	Answer	How to get it
Cash left	\$65	40 minus 15 plus 20 plus 35 minus 5 minus 10
Table owned	\$20	The table was bought with the borrowed money
Total assets	\$85	Cash of 65 plus the table of 20
Still owe parent	\$10	Borrowed 20, paid back 10
Owner's equity	\$75	The 40 invested plus 35 profit from sales minus 20 in expenses

THE EQUATION BALANCES

Assets \$85 = Liabilities \$10 + Equity \$75. Left side 85, right side 85. If a student lands here, they have kept a real set of books. If they are off, walk back through the ledger one line at a time and find the transaction that only got recorded on one side.

WANT THE WHOLE ACCOUNTING UNIT?

This set is the friendly on-ramp. The editable accounting and financial-literacy curriculum in the Madly Productive Pathways shop builds the full journey around it: journal entries, the trial balance, financial statements, slides, guided notes, and answer keys, so you can teach the whole thing start to finish without building from scratch.