

The True Cost of Borrowing

Learning goal

Compare total repayment with the price tag and notice extra borrowing costs.

Preparation

Print the pupil pages. Ask pupils to mark assumptions, terms and evidence before drawing conclusions. Use no private real data.

Teaching flow

7 min**Hook**

Read the story aloud. Ask which card facts are known and what the class needs to find out.

13 min**Model**

Think aloud through task 1: Add the three €34 payments. How much above the €90 price is that?

25 min**Practise**

Pupils tackle tasks 2 and 3. Ask which card fact supports each answer.

10 min**Discuss**

Discuss this likely misconception: A pay-later option is not automatically free or safer in real life; the €90 later card is a narrow teaching assumption.

5 min**Exit**

Use the reflection as the exit check: What figure should you compare first across borrowing offers?

Evidence of learning

The full total to repay, alongside terms, fees and timing.

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Model answers

1. $3 \times €34 = €102$, which is €12 above €90.
2. Pay-now €90 and stated-fee-free pay-later €90 tie on total; the three-payment offer totals €102. Real terms could differ.
3. It hides the total and may omit fees, dates and consequences of missed payments.

Reflection check

What figure should you compare first across borrowing offers?

Look for: The full total to repay, alongside terms, fees and timing.

Watch for

A pay-later option is not automatically free or safer in real life; the €90 later card is a narrow teaching assumption.

Adapt the lesson

Support: Provide $34 + 34 + 34$ already arranged in a column.

Stretch: Add a hypothetical €5 missed-payment fee to the three-payment offer: €107 total.

Teach at home

Ask the teenager to mark assumptions and missing conditions before comparing outcomes.

Notes: what can the pupil already explain?

Teaching example: not personal financial advice.