

For real world situations involving interest use the model:

$$A = P \left(1 + \frac{r}{n} \right)^{nt}$$

Where A = Final Amount
 P = Principle
 (starting amount)

r = rate % \rightarrow decimal
 n = # of times compounded
 in one year
 t = time (in years)
 how long in bank

Example 1: You deposit \$4000 in an account that pays 2.92% annual interest. Find the balance after 1 year if the interest is compounded with the given frequency.

a. Annually

$$n=1$$

Growth Equation

$$A = 4000 \left(1 + \frac{0.0292}{1} \right)^{20t} \rightarrow A = 4000 (1 + 0.0292)^t$$

$$A = 4000 (1.0292)^t$$

$$A = 4000 (1.0292)^{20}$$

$$\$ 7113.04$$

b. Quarterly

$$n=4$$

$$A = 4000 \left(1 + \frac{0.0292}{4} \right)^{4t}$$

$$A = 4000 \left(1 + \frac{0.0292}{4} \right)^{4 \cdot 20}$$

$$\$ 7157.59$$

c. Monthly

$$n=12$$

$$A = 4000 \left(1 + \frac{0.0292}{12} \right)^{12t}$$

$$A = 4000 \left(1 + \frac{0.0292}{12} \right)^{12(20)}$$

$$\$ 7167.70$$

d. Monthly for 3 years & 6 months $t=3.5$

Example 2: Sally invests the same amount of money in three different bank accounts that earns 2.5% interest compounded at different rates. She starts by putting in \$2,500. In which bank will Sally have more money after the given amount of time.

Bank A: Compounded monthly for 2 years.
 $n = 12$

$$A = 2500 \left(1 + \frac{0.025}{12} \right)^{12 \cdot 2} \quad \$2628.04$$

Bank B: Compounded annually for 4 years.

$$A = 2500 \left(1 + \frac{0.025}{1} \right)^{1 \cdot 4}$$

\$2759.53

Bank C: Compounded quarterly for 3 years.

$$A = 2500 \left(1 + \frac{0.025}{4} \right)^{4 \cdot 3}$$

\$2694.08