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work at Findex.Article edited by Kelly Suzan Waggoner Simple interest is a straightforward method of calculating interest on a loan or deposit. It is based on the initial principal, and it does not compound on any previously earned interest. When borrowing money, the lender charges interest on the loan. When repaying the loan, the borrower must pay back the initial principal amount along with the interest accrued. The interest is calculated as a percentage of the initial principal, and it does not compound on any previously earned interest. Simple interest is commonly used for short-term loans, such as personal loans or short-term deposits, and is easy to understand and calculate, making it a popular choice for basic interest calculations. Simple interest meaning explained with an example: Imagine you lend \$1,000\$ to your friend, and they agree to pay you back with a 5%\$ interest rate per year. How does simple interest work here? With simple interest, the interest remains the same every year, and it doesn't "grow" over time. So, after one year, your friend owes you the original \$1,000\$ plus an additional \$50\$ in interest (\$5%\$ of \$1,000\$). In the second year, they pay another \$50\$ as interest, and so on. The interest doesn't compound or increase with time; it's a fixed amount each year based on the initial \$1,000\$ borrowed. Now, let's define simple interest. Simple interest is the interest earned on a principal amount, calculated at a specified interest rate and over a certain period. Simple interest is calculated by the following formula:  $SI = \frac{P \times R \times T}{100}$  OR  $SI = P \times r \times T \times \frac{R}{100} = r \times$  where, P : Principal amount which is the initial amount borrowed or invested.  $\frac{R}{100} = r$  : Rate of interest T : Time refers to the duration for which the principal amount is lent or borrowed. It is usually expressed in years or months. The amount is the money that an individual receives from the borrower, which is the total of principal and interest amount. It can be expressed as: Amount  $=$  Principal  $+$  Simple Interest  $SA = P + SI$ . $SA = P + \frac{P \times R \times T}{100}$  Step 1: Identify the principal amount: Determine the initial amount borrowed or invested. Step 2: Find the interest rate: Identify the interest rate specified as a percentage. Step 3: Determine the time period: Note the length of time the money is borrowed or invested for. Step 4: Calculate simple interest: Multiply the principal amount, interest rate (in decimal form), and time period together: Step 5: Simple Interest  $=$  Principal Amount  $\times$  Interest Rate (as decimal)  $\times$  Time Period The result is the simple interest earned or paid on the principal amount. Example: John borrowed \$2000\$ from a bank at the rate of interest of 10%\$ p.a. What will be the simple interest if it is borrowed for 5 years? Principal amount  $=$  \$2000\$ Rate of interest  $=$  10%  $= \frac{10}{100} = 0.10$  Time  $=$  5\$ years  $SI = \frac{2000 \times 10 \times 5}{100}$  \$  $SI =$  \$1000\$ Simple interest and compound interest are interest calculating methods used widely in banking and financial organizations. In simple interest, the principal amount is the same every year, while in compound interest, the amount at the end of one year is the principal amount for the next year. Let us explore more differences between simple interest and compound interest. Simple InterestCompound InterestIt is calculated only on the initial principal amount.It is the interest calculated on the total accumulation of principal and interest amount.Simple interest formula  $SI = P \times r \times T$ SS.I.  $= \frac{P \times R \times T}{100}$  where  $r = \frac{R}{100}$ Compound interest formula  $= P(\frac{1 + r}{1})^{nt} - P$ The interest is the same for every year on the initial principal amount.The interest is different for every time period, as it is calculated upon the accumulated amount, not the initial principal.Its growth over the period of time is uniform.Its growth has increased rapidly.Often used for short-term loans and depositsCommonly found in long-term investments like savings accounts or loans Simple interest is the fundamental for interest calculation from which other interests like compound interest are derived. The amount received from simple interest is comparatively lesser than the amount received by compound interest. In simple interest, the principal amount is the same every year. The interest earned or paid with simple interest is proportional to the principal amount and the time period, without any additional factors. In this article, we learned about the concept of simple interest and how it is calculated using the principal amount, interest rate, and time period. Simple interest provides a straightforward method to determine the interest accrued on a loan or investment. To reinforce our understanding, let's now apply the simple interest formula through solving examples and attempting MCQs for better comprehension. 1. What is the simple interest if the principal is \$1000\$ invested for 10 years at the interest rate of 5%\$ per annum? Solution: Principal  $=$  \$1,000\$ Rate of interest  $=$  5%\$ Time  $=$  10\$ years By using simple interest formula,  $SI = \frac{P \times R \times T}{100}$  \$  $SI = \frac{1000 \times 5 \times 10}{100}$  \$  $SI =$  \$5,000\$ Therefore, the simple interest  $=$  \$5,000\$ 2. How much did Mary invest at 10%\$ annual simple interest for 5 years to earn \$2000\$? Solution: Rate of interest (R)  $=$  10%  $=$  0.10\$ Time (T)  $=$  45 years Amount (A)  $=$  \$2,000\$ Principal (P)  $=$  ? By using amount formula of simple interest,  $SA = P(1 + RT)$  \$2000  $= P(1 + 0.10 \times 45)$  \$2000  $= P(1.45)$  Dividing both sides by P,  $SP = 20001.45$   $SP =$  \$1,428.5\$ Thus, Mary invested \$1,428.5\$ as a principal amount. 3. Find the total amount received by Michael if he invested a principal amount of \$3000\$ and receives \$1500\$ as interest. Solution: Simple interest  $=$  1500\$ Principal amount  $=$  3000\$ To calculate the total amount received, Amount  $=$  Principal  $+$  Simple Interest Amount  $=$  3000 + 1500\$ Amount  $=$  \$4500\$ Is the formula for simple interest the same for all types of loans? Yes, the formula for simple interest is consistent for all types of loans and investments. Simple Interest  $=$  Principal  $\times$  Rate  $\times$  Time. Can simple interest be applied to both loans and investments? Yes, simple interest can be used for both loans and investments, as it calculates the interest earned or paid on the principal amount. How is simple interest calculated monthly? We can calculate the simple interest for monthly by dividing the yearly interest by 12. Thus, the formula for calculating simple interest monthly is expressed as:  $SI = \frac{P \times R \times T}{100 \times 12}$  Are there any advantages to using simple interest for short-term loans? Yes, simple interest is easier to understand and calculate, making it advantageous for short-term loans with straightforward interest calculations. How does the time period affect the simple interest amount? The longer the time period, the higher the total simple interest amount, as the interest accumulates linearly over time. Simple Interest is a quick and easy method for calculating the Interest Charged on a Loan or Principal Amount. The Concept of Simple Interest is quite famous and is used in many sectors such as finance, automobile, and banking. Go through the further modules to know about What is Simple Interest, Formula to Calculate Simple Interest, Solved Examples on How to Calculate the Simple Interest. What is Simple Interest? Simple Interest is the method for calculating the Interest Amount on a Certain Amount of Sum. SI is obtained by multiplying the interest rate, principal, time duration that elapses between payments. In general, it is calculated on a daily, monthly or annual basis. In real times, money is not borrowed or lent for free. While repaying the amount you borrowed you need to pay a certain amount of interest along with the amount you have taken. In fact, the amount of interest you repay depends on the loan amount as well as the time for which you borrow and the rate of interest. Simple Interest Formula You need to be familiar with the Simple Interest Formula in order to understand the concept of Finances. The formula for Simple Interest helps you find the interest amount if principal, rate of interest, and time duration are given. Formula to Calculate Simple Interest is  $SI = \frac{P \times R \times T}{100}$  Where, P = Principal R = Rate of Interest (in percentage) T = Time Duration (in years) However, the formula to find the Amount is given by Amount (A) = Principal (P) + Interest (I). The amount is the total money you pay back at the end of the time you borrowed. Simple Interest Formula for Months The Formula to find Simple Interest for Months varies slightly compared to a yearly basis. Let us consider the Principal Amount be P and Rate of Interest per Annum be R and n be the time duration in months then the formula to Calculate SI is as such Simple Interest for n months =  $\frac{P \times n \times R}{12 \times 100}$  Solved Examples on Simple Interest 1. Raju takes a loan of Rs 20,000 from a bank for a period of 2 years. The rate of interest is 5% per annum. Find the interest and the amount he has to pay by the end of 2 years? Solution: Principal or Loan Sum = 20,000 Time Duration T = 2 Yrs Rate of Interest R = 5% Formula to Calculate the Simple Interest =  $\frac{P \times R \times T}{100} = \frac{(20,000 \times 5 \times 2)}{100} = \frac{200000}{100} = 2000$  Amount to be repaid by the end of the year = Principal + Interest = 20,000+2000 = 22,000 Therefore, Raju needs to repay a total of Rs. 22,000/- after the end of 2 years. 2. Mohan pays Rs 13000 as an amount on the sum of Rs 10000 that he had borrowed for 3 years. Find the rate of interest? Solution: Amount = 13,000 Principal = 10,000 SI = Amount - Principal = 13,000 - 10,000 = 3,000 Time Duration = 3 yrs Rate of Interest R = ?  $SI = \frac{P \times R \times T}{100}$  3,000  $= \frac{(10,000 \times R \times 3)}{100}$  R =  $\frac{(3000 \times 100)}{(10,000 \times 3)} = \frac{300000}{30000} = 10\%$  Therefore, Rate of Interest is 10%. 3. Neela borrowed Rs 40,000 for 2 years at a rate of 4% per annum. Find the interest accumulated at the end of 2 years? Solution: P = Rs 40,000 R = 4% T = 2 years  $SI = \frac{P \times R \times T}{100} = \frac{(40,000 \times 4 \times 2)}{100} = \frac{3200}{100} = 3200$  Interest accumulated at the end of 2 years is Rs. 3,200/-