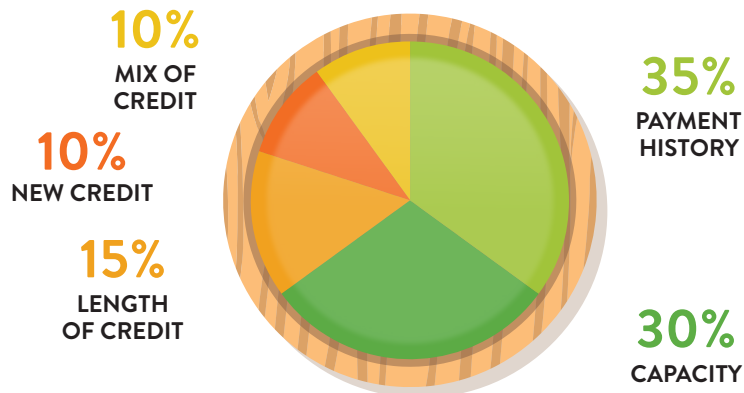


# Breakdown of a CREDIT SCORE

- IT'S A -  
**MONEY  
THING®**

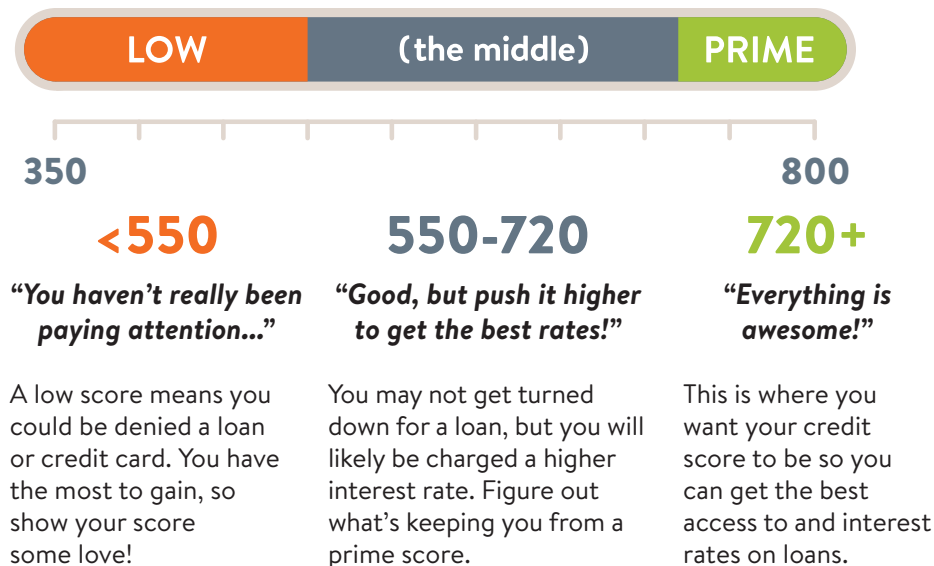
## HOW IS A CREDIT SCORE CALCULATED?



|                         |                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>PAYMENT HISTORY</b>  | Making payments on time boosts your score                                                               |
| <b>CAPACITY</b>         | The less you use of your total available credit each month, the better                                  |
| <b>LENGTH OF CREDIT</b> | A longer history of good credit habits raises your score                                                |
| <b>NEW CREDIT</b>       | Opening lots of new credit cards in a short amount of time can hurt this part of your score             |
| <b>MIX OF CREDIT</b>    | A mix of revolving credit (credit cards) and installment loans (mortgages, car loans) boosts your score |

## WHAT DOES YOUR SCORE SAY ABOUT YOU?

*Actual scores may be interpreted differently, depending on the financial institution.*



## A CREDIT SCORE

is a number used by financial institutions and credit card companies **to determine risk level** when issuing you a loan or a credit card.

## STAY ON TRACK

You are entitled to one free credit report per year from each of the major credit bureaus. Your FICO score is not shown on the report.

→ [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com)



**Space out your credit report requests** so that can check on your credit throughout the year.

### Curious about your score?

You can get a free estimate through [creditkarma.com](http://creditkarma.com) (but know that it's not your actual credit score—it'll be close, but not exact).

### Need access to the real deal?

Credit bureaus usually charge a fee (\$15 to \$25) for your FICO score.

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