# Loan BASICS

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY** 

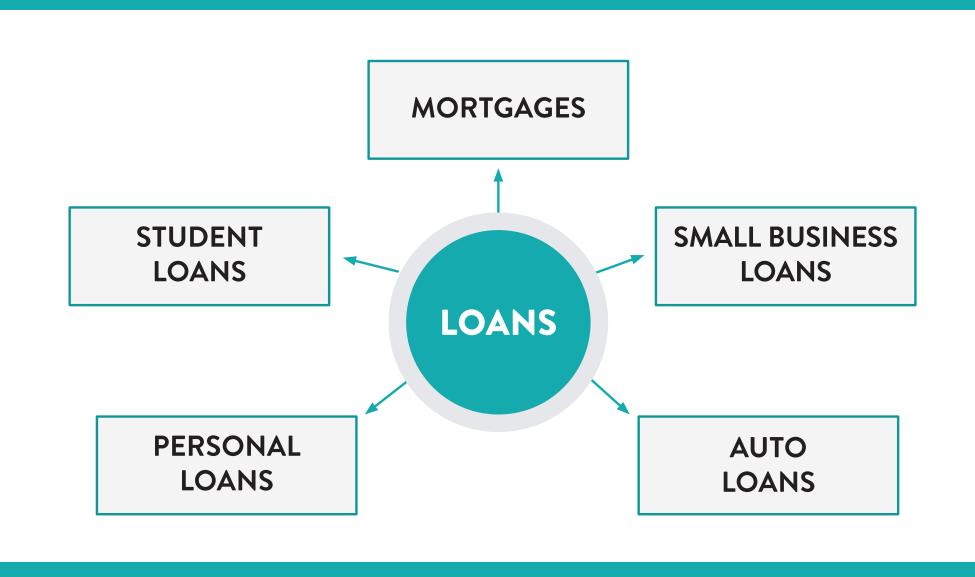






# Loans are the gatekeepers to some of our biggest goals.

They help cover large purchases that people generally can't afford upfront.



# Loan TERMINOLOGY

\$5,000

4.99% APR 48 months

**Principal** 

The amount of money borrowed on a loan.

(It can sometimes refer to the amount of debt, exclusive of interest, remaining on a loan.)

Interest

\$5,000

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#### Interest

The amount charged by a lender to a borrower for the use of the money.

(Often shown as an Annual Percentage Rate (APR). The APR represents the yearly cost of the loan, including fees.)

### 48 months

**Term** 

## \$5,000

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### 48 months

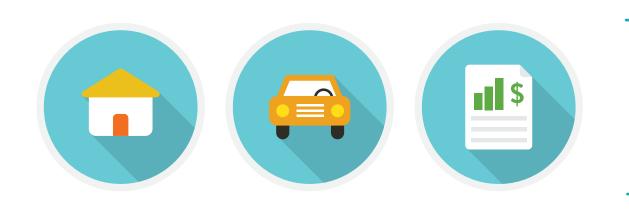
#### Term

The time period in which you agree to pay back your loan.

# Secured vs. Unsecured LOANS

Loans can either be secured or unsecured, depending on whether or not they're protected by collateral.

Collateral is something valuable that the lender can seize as a form of repayment if the borrower defaults on his or her loan.



Property, vehicles and investments are all common forms of collateral.

#### SECURED LOAN

- Requires collateral
- Tends to have lower interest
- Usually longer term

#### **UNSECURED LOAN**

- No collateral required
- Tends to have higher interest
- Usually shorter term

# Ways to lower your INTEREST RATE



#### SECURE YOUR LOAN

Secured loans tend to have lower interest because they're less risky to the lender.



#### ONLY BORROW WHAT YOU NEED

The more you borrow and the longer the term, the higher the interest rate will be.



#### **BOOST YOUR CREDIT SCORE**

Higher credit scores qualify you for lower rates on your loan.



#### KNOW WHAT LENDERS LOOK FOR

Things like a solid employment history, no outstanding debt and a good relationship with your financial institution can all help.



#### **GET A CO-SIGNER**

If you default on your loan, your co-signer takes on the debt as if it were their own.

# Fixed vs. Variable INTEREST RATES



In a **fixed-rate** loan, the interest rate stays the same throughout the entire term of the loan.

A variable-rate loan is based on a chosen index, so it changes throughout the term of your loan.





The index is a benchmark that reflects changes in the national economy. —



# FIXED A



If the index goes up, so does your rate.



If the index goes down, so does your rate.







Meanwhile, the fixed rate stays the same.



#### **FIXED RATE**

- Stays the same throughout the entire term of the loan
- Tends to have higher interest to counter the effect of rates rising in the future
- Consistent and easier to budget for





#### **VARIABLE RATE**

- Changes over time and is based on a chosen index
- Tends to have lower interest since the index is likely to go up over time
- Unpredictable and harder to budget for

#### **BROUGHT TO YOU BY**



Sources: Investopedia, Wise Bread

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