



Banks

Intermediate ESL Level



I. Pre-reading

Do you go to the bank? What do you do at the bank? Where do you keep your money in your country?

II. Vocabulary

services	borrow	balance	withdraw	proof
value	loan	deposit	teller	fees

III. Reading

A bank is a safe place to put your money. The bank offers many **services**.

- Save money in a savings account
- Pay your bills by check from a checking account
- Keep other things of **value** in a safe deposit box
- **Borrow** money. This is a **loan**. Pay back the loan every month

Anyone may open a savings account or a checking account. You do not need to be a citizen. You do not need to have a job. You do not need to own a car.



The money in your account is your **balance**. To **deposit** money means to put money into your account. To **withdraw** money means to take money out of your account. To deposit or withdraw money from your account, you must fill out a form and bring it to the **teller**.

Each bank has different rules. Call or visit a bank ask these questions:

- Do I need a picture ID?
- Do I need **proof** of address?
- Are there any bank **fees**?
- Do I need a social security number?
- Where do I buy checks?
- How much money do I need to start the account?



IV. Post-reading

Write the past tense for each verb.

Yesterday, I _____ to the bank. I _____ a savings account.
(drive) (open)

I _____ my social security number, and _____ the application.
(give) (sign)

There _____ no fee for the savings account. I _____ \$20
(is) (bring)

to start the account. I _____ very happy to start an account.
(am)

Select the right word.

balance withdraw deposit



Your starting _____ is \$200. If you _____ \$500

into your account, you will then have a _____ of \$700. If

you want to pay a bill of \$160, you _____ \$160 from your

account. Then your

_____ will be \$540.



V. Activities

If you are working with a tutor or a partner, discuss your answers.

1. What can you put into a safe deposit box? An example would be your birth certificate. Make a list of other items. Compare your list with another student.
2. Find the list of banks in your phone book. Call a few to find out their hours. When are they open? Which bank is close to your home?
3. Most banks are online. Find two or three banks online. What services do they offer? Which bank is the best for you?

