

ACCOUNTING FOR RECEIVABLES AND PAYABLES



THE NAVIGATOR ✓

- Understand *Concepts for Review*
- Read *Feature Story*
- Scan *Study Objectives*
- Read *Preview*
- Read text and answer *Before You Go On*
p. 356–357 p. 359–360 p. 366
- Work *Demonstration Problem*
- Review *Summary of Study Objectives*
- Complete *Assignments*

CONCEPTS FOR REVIEW

Before studying this chapter, you should know or, if necessary, review:

- a. How to record sales transactions. (Ch. 8, pp. 243–245)
- b. Why adjusting entries are made. (Ch. 4, pp. 107–108)
- c. How to compute interest. (Ch. 4, p. 117)

F E A T U R E S T O R Y

Financing His Dreams

What would you do if you had a great idea for a new product but couldn't come up with the cash to get the business off the ground? Small businesses often can't attract investors, nor can they obtain traditional debt financing through bank loans or bond issuances. Instead, they often resort to unusual, and costly, forms of nontraditional financing.

Such was the case for Wilbert Murdock. Murdock grew up in a New York housing project and always had great ambitions. This ambitious spirit led him into some business ventures that failed: a medical diagnostic tool, a device to eliminate carpal tunnel syndrome, custom sneakers, and a device to keep people from falling asleep while driving.

His latest idea was computerized golf clubs that analyze a golfer's swing and provide immediate feedback. Murdock saw great potential in the idea: Many golfers are willing to shell out considerable sums of money for devices that might improve their game. But Murdock had

no cash to develop his product, and banks and other lenders had shied away. Rather than give up, Murdock resorted to credit cards—in a big way. He quickly owed \$25,000 to credit-card companies.

While funding a business with credit cards might sound unusual, it isn't. A recent study found that one-third of businesses with fewer than 20 employees financed at least part of their operations with credit cards. As Murdock explained, credit cards are an appealing way to finance a start-up because "credit-card companies don't care how the money is spent." But they do care how they are paid. And so Murdock faced high interest charges and a barrage of credit-card collection letters.

Murdock's debt forced him to sacrifice nearly everything in order to keep his business afloat. His car



stopped running, he barely had enough money to buy food, and he lived and worked out of a dimly lit apartment in his mother's basement. Through it all he tried to maintain a positive spirit, joking that if he becomes successful, he might some day get to appear in an American Express commercial.

SOURCE: Rodney Ho, "Banking on Plastic: To Finance a Dream, Many Entrepreneurs Binge on Credit Cards," Wall Street Journal, March 9, 1998, p. A1.



S T U D Y O B J E C T I V E S

After studying this chapter, you should be able to

1. Identify the different types of receivables.
2. Explain how accounts receivable are recognized in the accounts.
3. Distinguish between the methods and the bases used to value accounts receivable.
4. Describe the entries to record the disposition of accounts receivable.
5. Explain why credit policies are needed in the hospitality industry.
6. Compute the maturity date of and interest on notes receivable.
7. Explain how notes receivable are recognized in the accounts.
8. Describe how notes receivable are valued.
9. Describe the entries to record the disposition of notes receivable.

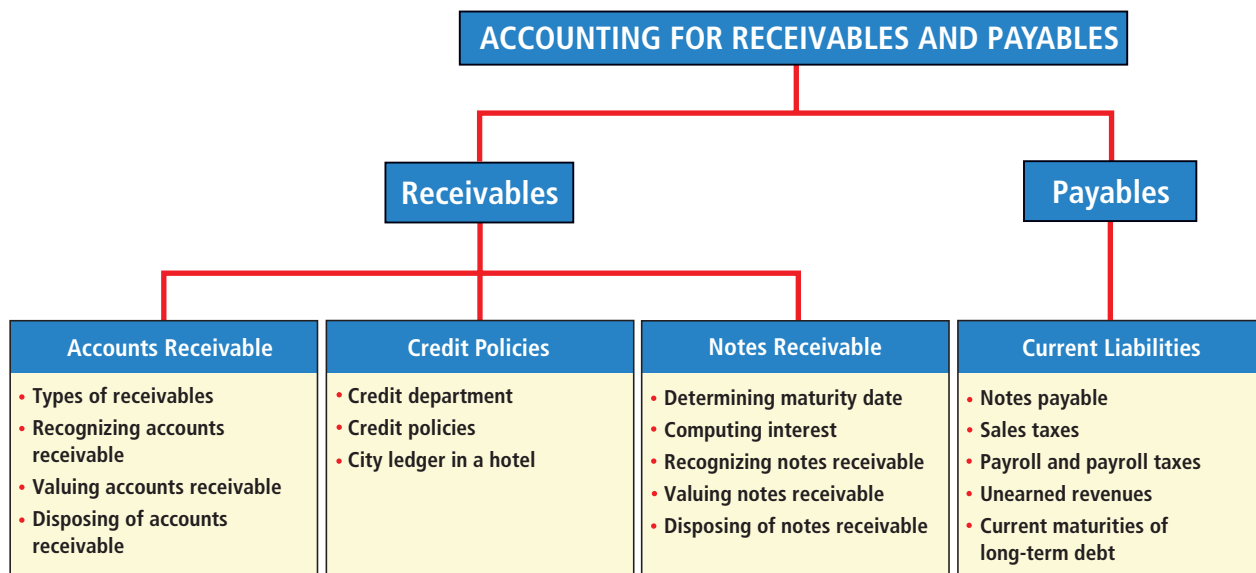


Continued

PREVIEW OF CHAPTER 12

As indicated in the Feature Story, inventor-entrepreneur Wilbert Murdock has had to use multiple credit cards to finance his business venture. Murdock's credit-card debt would be classified current liabilities because they are due every month. Yet, by making minimal payments and paying high interest each month, Murdock uses this credit source long-term. Some credit-card balances remain outstanding for years as they accumulate interest. All liabilities, whether they are claims, debts, or obligations, must be settled or paid at some time in the future by the transfer of assets or services. The future date on which they are due or payable (maturity date) is a significant feature of liabilities and thus has to be managed appropriately. Failure to pay your bills on time, including sales taxes you collect on behalf of the government, can result in severe penalties. On the other hand, receivables are a significant asset on the books of many hospitality companies. These accounts represent cash flows of corporations. As a consequence, companies must pay close attention to their receivables and carefully manage them. In this chapter you will learn what journal entries hospitality companies make when products are sold, when cash is collected from those sales, when accounts that cannot be collected are written off, when debts are incurred, and when they are paid.

Thus the content and organization of Chapter 12 are as follows:



STUDY OBJECTIVES (CONTINUED)

10. Explain a current liability, and identify the major types of current liabilities.
11. Describe the accounting of notes payable.
12. Explain the accounting of other current liabilities.

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

TYPES OF RECEIVABLES

The term *receivables* refers to amounts due from individuals and other companies. They are claims that are expected to be collected in cash. Receivables are frequently classified as accounts, notes, and other.

- **Accounts receivable** are amounts owed by customers on account. They result from the sale of goods and services. These receivables generally are expected

STUDY OBJECTIVE 1

Identify the different types of receivables.

to be collected within 30 to 60 days. They are the most significant type of claim held by a company.

- **Notes receivable** are claims for which formal instruments of credit are issued as proof of the debt. A note receivable normally extends for time periods of 60 to 90 days or longer and requires the debtor to pay interest. Notes and accounts receivable that result from sales transactions are often called **trade receivables**.
- **Other receivables** include nontrade receivables. Examples are interest receivable, loans to company officers, advances to employees, and income taxes refundable. These are unusual. Therefore, they are generally classified and reported as separate items in the balance sheet.

Three primary accounting issues are associated with accounts receivable:

1. **Recognizing** accounts receivable
2. **Valuing** accounts receivable
3. **Disposing of** accounts receivable

RECOGNIZING ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Recognizing accounts receivable is relatively straightforward. In Chapter 6 we saw how accounts receivable are affected by the sale of merchandise. To illustrate, assume that Jordache Co., on July 1, 2008, sells merchandise on account to Polo Theme Park for \$1,000 terms 2/10, n/30. On July 5, Polo returns merchandise worth \$100 to Jordache Co. On July 11, Jordache receives payment from Polo for the balance due. The journal entries to record these transactions on the books of Jordache Co. are as follows:

| | | | |
|---------|---|------------------|-------|
| July 1 | Accounts Receivable—Polo Theme Park Sales (To record sales on account) | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| July 5 | Sales Returns and Allowances Accounts Receivable—Polo Theme Park (To record merchandise returned) | 100 | 100 |
| July 11 | Cash (\$900 – \$18) Sales Discounts (\$900 × 0.02) Accounts Receivable—Polo Theme Park (To record collection of accounts receivable) | 882 18 900 | 900 |

A 2 percent discount is given in these situations either to encourage prompt payment or for competitive reasons.

Sometimes a hospitality business also may need to pay interest. Take the example of Gary’s Soup and Salad. Gary’s buys produce from Fresh Produce for all its salad bar items. To illustrate, assume Gary’s buy on credit. Fresh Produce will make the following entry at the date of sale:

| | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Accounts Receivable Sales (To record sale of merchandise) | 300 | 300 |
|---|-----|-----|

Fresh Produce will send Gary’s a monthly statement of this transaction and any others that have occurred during the month. If Gary’s does not pay in full within 30 days, Fresh Produce adds an interest (financing) charge to the balance due. Although the interest rates vary by region and over time, a common rate of interest is 18 percent per year (1.5 percent per month).

ETHICS NOTE

Receivables from employees and officers of a company are reported separately in the financial statements. The reason: Sometimes those assets are valued inappropriately or are not based on an “arm’s length” transaction.

STUDY OBJECTIVE 2

Explain how accounts receivable are recognized in the accounts.

| | | | | |
|--------|---|---|---|--------|
| A | = | L | + | SE |
| +1,000 | | | | +1,000 |

| | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|------|
| A | = | L | + | SE |
| -100 | | | | -100 |

| | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|-----|
| A | = | L | + | SE |
| +882 | | | | -18 |
| -900 | | | | |

HELPFUL HINT

The preceding entries are the same as those described in Chapter 8. For simplicity, inventory and cost of goods sold are omitted from this set of journal entries and from end-of-chapter material.

| | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|------|
| A | = | L | + | SE |
| +300 | | | | +300 |

When financing charges are added, the seller recognizes interest revenue. Assuming that you owe \$300 at the end of the month and that Fresh Produce charges 1.5 percent per month on the balance due, the adjusting entry to record interest revenue of \$4.50 ($\$300 \times 1.5\%$) is as follows:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---------------------|------------------|--|------------------|------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| $\begin{array}{r} \text{A} \\ +4.50 \end{array} = \begin{array}{r} \text{L} \\ \text{Interest Revenue} \end{array} + \begin{array}{r} \text{SE} \\ +4.50 \end{array}$ | <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">Accounts Receivable</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">4.50</td> <td style="width: 40%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Interest Revenue</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 5px;">4.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">(To record interest on amount due)</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> </td> <td style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> </tr> </table> | <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">Accounts Receivable</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">4.50</td> <td style="width: 40%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Interest Revenue</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 5px;">4.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">(To record interest on amount due)</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | Accounts Receivable | 4.50 | | Interest Revenue | | 4.50 | (To record interest on amount due) | | | | |
| <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">Accounts Receivable</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">4.50</td> <td style="width: 40%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Interest Revenue</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 5px;">4.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">(To record interest on amount due)</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | Accounts Receivable | 4.50 | | Interest Revenue | | 4.50 | (To record interest on amount due) | | | | | | |
| Accounts Receivable | 4.50 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Interest Revenue | | 4.50 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (To record interest on amount due) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Interest revenue is often substantial for many retailers.

ACCOUNTING IN ACTION *Business Insight*



Interest rates on most credit cards are quite high, averaging 18.8 percent. As a result, consumers often look for companies that charge lower rates. Be careful—some companies offer lower interest rates but have eliminated the standard 25-day grace period before finance charges are incurred. Other companies encourage consumers to get more in debt by advertising that only a \$1 minimum payment is due on a \$1,000 account balance. The less you pay off, the more interest they earn! One bank markets a credit card that allows cardholders to skip a payment twice a year. However, the outstanding balance continues to incur interest. Other credit-card companies calculate finance charges initially on two-month, rather than one-month, averages, a practice that often translates into higher interest charges. In short, read the fine print.

STUDY OBJECTIVE 3

Distinguish between the methods and the bases used to value accounts receivable.

VALUING ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Once receivables are recorded in the accounts, the question is: How should receivables be reported in the financial statements? They are reported on the balance sheet as an asset. But determining the *amount* to report is sometimes difficult because some receivables will become uncollectible.

Each customer must satisfy the credit requirements of the seller before the credit sale is approved. Inevitably, though, some accounts receivable become uncollectible. For example, one of your customers may not be able to pay because of a decline in sales owing to a downturn in the economy. Similarly, individuals may be laid off from their jobs or faced with unexpected hospital bills. Credit losses are recorded as debits to **Bad Debts Expense** (or Uncollectible Accounts Expense). Such losses are considered a normal and necessary risk of doing business on a credit basis.

Two methods are used in accounting for uncollectible accounts: (1) the direct write-off method and (2) the allowance method. These methods are explained in the following sections.

Direct Write-Off Method for Uncollectible Accounts

Under the **direct write-off method**, when a particular account is determined to be uncollectible, the loss is charged to Bad Debts Expense. Assume, for example, that Executive Conference Center writes off M. E. Doran's \$200 balance as uncollectible on December 12. The entry looks like this:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|-----|--|--|--|--|--|
| $\begin{array}{r} \text{A} \\ -200 \end{array} = \begin{array}{r} \text{L} \\ \text{Bad Debts Expense} \end{array} + \begin{array}{r} \text{SE} \\ -200 \end{array}$ | <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">Dec. 12 Bad Debts Expense</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">200</td> <td style="width: 40%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Accounts Receivable—M. E. Doran</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 5px;">200</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">(To record write-off of M. E. Doran account)</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> </td> <td style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> </tr> </table> | <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">Dec. 12 Bad Debts Expense</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">200</td> <td style="width: 40%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Accounts Receivable—M. E. Doran</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 5px;">200</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">(To record write-off of M. E. Doran account)</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | Dec. 12 Bad Debts Expense | 200 | | Accounts Receivable—M. E. Doran | | 200 | (To record write-off of M. E. Doran account) | | | | |
| <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">Dec. 12 Bad Debts Expense</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">200</td> <td style="width: 40%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Accounts Receivable—M. E. Doran</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 5px;">200</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">(To record write-off of M. E. Doran account)</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | Dec. 12 Bad Debts Expense | 200 | | Accounts Receivable—M. E. Doran | | 200 | (To record write-off of M. E. Doran account) | | | | | | |
| Dec. 12 Bad Debts Expense | 200 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Accounts Receivable—M. E. Doran | | 200 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (To record write-off of M. E. Doran account) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

When this method is used, bad debts expense will show only *actual losses* from uncollectibles. Accounts receivable will be reported at its gross amount.

Although this method is simple, its use can reduce the usefulness of both the income statement and the balance sheet. Consider the following example: Assume that in 2008, Quick Buck Cruise Company decided it could increase its revenues by offering holiday cruises to college students without requiring any money down and with no credit-approval process. On campuses across the country it distributed 1 million cruises with a selling price of \$800 each. This increased Quick Buck's revenues and receivables by \$800 million. The promotion was a huge success! The 2008 balance sheet and income statement looked great. Unfortunately, during 2009, nearly 40 percent of the college student customers defaulted on their loans. This made the 2009 income statement and balance sheet look terrible. Illustration 12-1 shows the effect of these events on the financial statements if the direct write-off method is used.

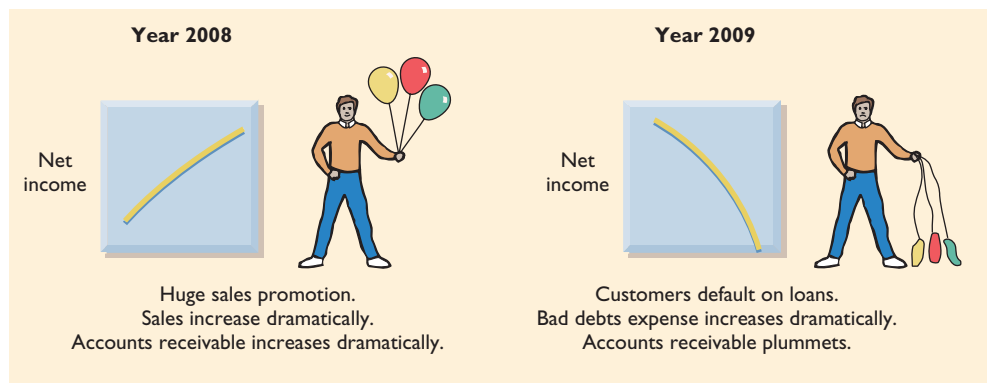


Illustration 12-1

Effects of direct write-off method

Under the direct write-off method, bad debts expense is often recorded in a period different from the period in which the revenue was recorded. No attempt is made to match bad debts expense to sales revenues in the income statement, and the direct write-off method does not show accounts receivable in the balance sheet at the amount actually expected to be received. **Consequently, unless bad debts losses are insignificant, the direct write-off method is not acceptable for financial reporting purposes.**

Allowance Method for Uncollectible Accounts

The **allowance method** of accounting for bad debts involves estimating uncollectible accounts at the end of each period. This provides better matching on the income statement and ensures that receivables are stated at their cash (net) realizable value on the balance sheet. **Cash (net) realizable value** is the net amount expected to be received in cash. It excludes amounts that the company estimates it will not collect. Receivables are therefore reduced by estimated uncollectible receivables in the balance sheet through use of this method.

The allowance method is required for financial reporting purposes when bad debts are material in amount. It has three essential features:

1. Uncollectible accounts receivable are *estimated*. This estimate is treated as an expense and is matched against sales in the same accounting period in which the sales occurred.
2. Estimated uncollectibles are debited to Bad Debts Expense and are credited to Allowance for Doubtful Accounts (a contra asset account) through an adjusting entry at the end of each period.
3. When a specific account is written off, actual uncollectibles are debited to Allowance for Doubtful Accounts and credited to Accounts Receivable.

RECORDING ESTIMATED UNCOLLECTIBLES. To illustrate the allowance method, assume that Hampson Hotels has credit sales to various restaurants of

HELPFUL HINT

In this context, *material* means "significant" or "important" to financial statement users.

\$1.2 million in 2008. Of this amount, \$200,000 remains uncollected at December 31. The credit manager estimates that \$12,000 of these sales will be uncollectible. The adjusting entry to record the estimated uncollectibles looks like this:

| | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|---------|
| A | = | L | + | SE |
| -12,000 | | | | -12,000 |

| | | | |
|---------|--|--------|--------|
| Dec. 31 | Bad Debts Expense | 12,000 | |
| | Allowance for Doubtful Accounts | | 12,000 |
| | (To record estimate of uncollectible accounts) | | |

Bad Debts Expense is reported in the income statement as an operating expense (usually as a selling expense). Thus, the estimated uncollectibles are matched with sales in 2008. The expense is recorded in the same year the sales are made.

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts shows the estimated amount of claims on customers that are expected to become uncollectible in the future. This contra account is used instead of a direct credit to Accounts Receivable because we do not know which customers will not pay. The credit balance in the allowance account will absorb the specific write-offs when they occur. It is deducted from Accounts Receivable in the current assets section of the balance sheet as shown in Illustration 12-2.

Illustration 12-2

Presentation of allowance for doubtful accounts

| HAMPSON HOTELS | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Balance Sheet (partial) | | | |
| Current assets | | | |
| Cash | | | \$ 14,800 |
| Accounts receivable | \$200,000 | | |
| Less: Allowance for doubtful accounts | <u>12,000</u> | 188,000 | |
| Merchandise inventory | | | 310,000 |
| Prepaid expense | | | <u>25,000</u> |
| Total current assets | | | \$537,800 |

INTERNATIONAL NOTE

The Finance Ministry in Japan noted that financial institutions should make better disclosure of bad loans. This disclosure would help depositors pick healthy banks.

The amount of \$188,000 in Illustration 12-2 represents the expected cash realizable value of the accounts receivable at the statement date. **Allowance for Doubtful Accounts is not closed at the end of the fiscal year.**

RECORDING THE WRITE-OFF OF AN UNCOLLECTIBLE ACCOUNT. Companies use various methods of collecting past-due accounts, such as letters, calls, and legal action. When all means of collecting a past-due account have been exhausted and collection appears impossible, the account should be written off. In the credit-card industry, for example, it is standard practice to write off accounts that are 210 days past due. To prevent premature or unauthorized write-offs, each write-off should be formally approved in writing by management. To maintain good internal control, authorization to write off accounts should not be given to someone who also has daily responsibilities related to cash or receivables.

To illustrate a receivables write-off, assume that the vice president of finance of Hampson Hotel authorizes a write-off of the \$500 balance owed by R. A. Cybercafe on March 1, 2009:

| | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|----|
| A | = | L | + | SE |
| +500 | | | | |
| -500 | | | | |

| | | | |
|--------|--|-----|-----|
| Mar. 1 | Allowance for Doubtful Accounts | 500 | |
| | Accounts Receivable—R. A. Cybercafe | | 500 |
| | (Write-off of R. A. Cybercafe account) | | |

Bad Debts Expense is not increased when the write-off occurs. **Under the allowance method, every bad debt write-off is debited to the allowance account rather than to Bad Debts Expense.** A debit to Bad Debts Expense would be incorrect because the

expense has already been recognized when the adjusting entry was made for estimated bad debts. Instead, the entry to record the write-off of an uncollectible account reduces both Accounts Receivable and Allowance for Doubtful Accounts. After posting, the general ledger accounts will appear as in Illustration 12-3.

| Accounts Receivable | | Allowance for Doubtful Accounts | |
|---------------------|---------|---------------------------------|--------|
| Jan. 1 Bal. | 200,000 | Mar. 1 | 500 |
| Mar. 1 Bal. | 199,500 | Mar. 1 | 500 |
| | | Jan. 1 Bal. | 12,000 |
| | | Mar. 1 Bal. | 11,500 |

Illustration 12-3

General ledger balances after write-off

A write-off affects only balance sheet accounts. The write-off of the account reduces both Accounts Receivable and Allowance for Doubtful Accounts. Cash realizable value in the balance sheet, therefore, remains the same, as shown in Illustration 12-4.

| | Before Write-Off | After Write-Off |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Accounts receivable | \$ 200,000 | \$199,500 |
| Allowance for doubtful accounts | 12,000 | 11,500 |
| Cash realizable value | \$188,000 | \$188,000 |

Illustration 12-4

Cash realizable value comparison

RECOVERY OF AN UNCOLLECTIBLE ACCOUNT. Occasionally, a company collects from a customer after the account has been written off. Two entries are required to record the recovery of a bad debt: (1) The entry made in writing off the account is reversed to reinstate the customer’s account. (2) The collection is journalized in the usual manner.

To illustrate, assume that on July 1, R. A. Cybercafe pays the \$500 amount that had been written off on March 1. These are the entries:

| | | | | |
|--------|-----|---|-----|-----|
| July 1 | (1) | Accounts Receivable—R. A. Cybercafe | 500 | 500 |
| | | Allowance for Doubtful Accounts | | |
| | | (To reverse write-off of R. A. Cybercafe account) | | |
| July 1 | (2) | Cash | 500 | 500 |
| | | Accounts Receivable—R. A. Cybercafe | | |
| | | (To record collection from R. A. Cybercafe) | | |

| | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|----|
| A | = | L | + | SE |
| +500 | | | | |
| -500 | | | | |

| | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|----|
| A | = | L | + | SE |
| +500 | | | | |
| -500 | | | | |

Note that the recovery of a bad debt, like the write-off of a bad debt, affects only balance sheet accounts. The net effect of the two entries above is a debit to Cash and a credit to Allowance for Doubtful Accounts for \$500. Accounts Receivable is debited and the Allowance for Doubtful Accounts is credited in entry (1) for two reasons: First, the company made an error in judgment when it wrote off the account receivable. Second, after R. A. Cybercafe did pay, Accounts Receivable in the general ledger and R. A. Cybercafe’s account in the subsidiary ledger should show the collection for possible future credit purposes.

HELPFUL HINT

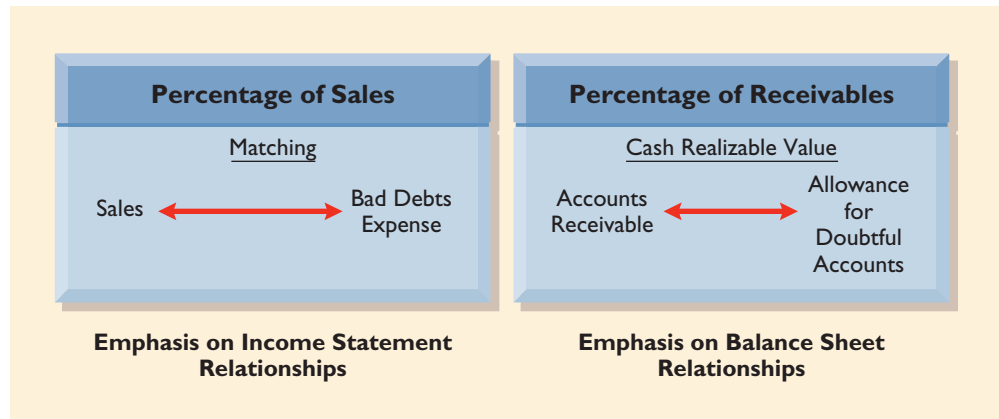
Like the write-off, a recovery does not involve the income statement.

BASES USED FOR ALLOWANCE METHOD. To simplify the preceding explanation, we assumed we knew the amount of the expected uncollectibles. In “real life,” companies must estimate that amount if they use the allowance method. Two bases are used to determine this amount: (1) percentage of sales and (2) percent-

age of receivables. Both bases are generally accepted. The choice is a management decision that depends on the relative emphasis that management wishes to give to expenses and revenues, on the one hand, or to cash realizable value of the accounts receivable, on the other. The choice is whether to emphasize income statement or balance sheet relationships. Illustration 12-5 compares the two bases.

Illustration 12-5

Comparison of bases for estimating uncollectibles



The **percentage of sales basis** results in a better matching of expenses with revenues—an income statement viewpoint. The **percentage of receivables basis** produces the better estimate of cash realizable value—a balance sheet viewpoint. Under both bases, it is necessary to determine the company’s past experience with bad debt losses.

In the percentage of sales basis, management estimates what percentage of credit sales will be uncollectible. This percentage is based on past experience and anticipated credit policy.

The percentage is applied to either total credit sales or net credit sales of the current year. To illustrate, assume that the Gonzalez Hotel elects to use the percentage of sales basis. It concludes that 1 percent of net credit sales will become uncollectible. If net credit sales for 2008 is \$800,000, the estimated bad debts expense is \$8,000 (1% × \$800,000). The adjusting entry is

| | | | | |
|--------|---|---|---|--------|
| A | = | L | + | SE |
| -8,000 | | | | -8,000 |

| | | | |
|---------|--|-------|-------|
| Dec. 31 | Bad Debts Expense | 8,000 | |
| | Allowance for Doubtful Accounts | | 8,000 |
| | (To record estimated bad debts for year) | | |

After the adjusting entry is posted, assuming the allowance account already has a credit balance of \$1,723, the accounts of Gonzalez Hotel will look like Illustration 12-6:

Illustration 12-6

Bad debts accounts after posting

| Bad Debts Expense | | Allowance for Doubtful Accounts | |
|-------------------|------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| Dec. 31 | Adj. 8,000 | Bal. | 1,723 |
| | | Dec. 31 | Adj. 8,000 |
| | | Bal. | 9,723 |

This basis of estimating uncollectibles emphasizes the matching of expenses with revenues. As a result, Bad Debts Expense will show a direct percentage relationship to the sales base on which it is computed. **When the adjusting entry is made, the existing balance in Allowance for Doubtful Accounts is disregarded.** The adjusted balance in this account should be a reasonable approximation of the uncollectible receivables. If actual write-offs differ significantly from the amount estimated, the percentage for future years should be modified.

Under the *percentage of receivables basis*, management estimates the percentage of receivables that will result in losses from uncollectible accounts. An **aging schedule** is prepared, in which customer balances are classified by the length of time they have been unpaid. Because of its emphasis on time, the analysis is often called **aging the accounts receivable**.

ACCOUNTING IN ACTION Business Insight



In the hotel industry, we use two terms to describe trade receivables—*guest ledger* and *city ledger*. The guest ledger is a list of all outstanding amounts (receivables) owed to the hotel by the guest who did not depart yet, and the city ledger is a list of all outstanding amounts owed by the departed guest who has billing privileges.

Usually, the guest ledger is not a challenge for the simple reason that most outstanding amounts will be paid by credit card or cash once the guest checks out. A few accounts will be transferred to the city ledger. Accordingly, most of our efforts are used to control the outstanding receivables in the city ledger. For the same reason, in the hotel business, *city ledger* and *trade receivables* are used interchangeably; and the *perfect receivables* is one that is relatively low in dollars, reasonably current, without a doubt collectable, and ultimately produces no or little write-off.

SOURCE: E. Mohamad, MSA, “The Perfect Receivables: How to Keep Your Receivables Low, Current, and Collectible,” *Bottomline* 17(8), pp. 36–40.

After the accounts are aged, the expected bad debt losses are determined. This is done by applying percentages based on past experience to the totals in each category. The longer a receivable is past due, the less likely it is to be collected. So the estimated percentage of uncollectible debts increases as the number of days past due increases. An aging schedule for Dart Day Spa is shown in Illustration 12-7. Note the increasing percentages from 2 to 40 percent.

| Customer | Total | Not Yet Due | Number of Days Past Due | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|-------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | | 1–30 | 31–60 | 61–90 | Over 90 |
| T. E. Adert | \$ 600 | | \$ 300 | | \$ 200 | \$ 100 |
| R. C. Bortz | 300 | \$ 300 | | | | |
| B. A. Carl | 450 | | 200 | \$ 250 | | |
| O. L. Diker | 700 | 500 | | | 200 | |
| T. O. Ebbet | 600 | | | 300 | | 300 |
| Others | 36,950 | 26,200 | 5,200 | 2,450 | 1,600 | 1,500 |
| | \$39,600 | \$27,000 | \$5,700 | \$3,000 | \$2,000 | \$1,900 |
| Estimated Percentage Uncollectible | | 2% | 4% | 10% | 20% | 40% |
| Total Estimated Bad Debts | \$ 2,228 | \$ 540 | \$ 228 | \$ 300 | \$ 400 | \$ 760 |

Illustration 12-7

Aging schedule

HELPFUL HINT

The higher percentages are used for the older categories because the longer an account is past due, the less likely it is to be collected.

Total estimated bad debts for Dart Day Spa (\$2,228) represent the amount of existing customer claims expected to become uncollectible in the future. This amount represents the required balance in Allowance for Doubtful Accounts at the balance sheet date. **The amount of the bad debt adjusting entry is the difference between the required balance and the existing balance in the allowance account.** If the trial balance shows Allowance for Doubtful Accounts with a credit balance of \$528, an adjusting entry for \$1,700 (\$2,228 – \$528) is necessary, as shown on page 356:

| | | | | |
|--------|---|---|---|--------|
| A | = | L | + | SE |
| -1,700 | | | | -1,700 |

| | | | |
|---------|---|-------|-------|
| Dec. 31 | Bad Debts Expense | 1,700 | |
| | Allowance for Doubtful Accounts | | 1,700 |
| | (To adjust allowance account to total estimated uncollectibles) | | |

After the adjusting entry is posted, the accounts of the Dart Day Spa will look like Illustration 12-8.

Illustration 12-8

Bad debts accounts after posting

| Bad Debts Expense | | Allowance for Doubtful Accounts | |
|-------------------|-------|---------------------------------|-------|
| Dec. 31 Adj. | 1,700 | Bal. | 528 |
| | | Dec. 31 Adj. | 1,700 |
| | | Bal. | 2,228 |

Occasionally the allowance account will have a *debit balance* prior to adjustment. This occurs when write-offs during the year have exceeded previous provisions for bad debts. In such a case *the debit balance is added to the required balance* when the adjusting entry is made. Thus, if there had been a \$500 debit balance in the allowance account before adjustment, the adjusting entry would have been for \$2,728 (\$2,228 + \$500) to arrive at a credit balance of \$2,228.

The percentage of receivables method normally will result in the better approximation of cash realizable value. But it will not result in the better matching of expenses with revenues if some customers' accounts are more than one year past due. In such a case, bad debts expense for the current period would include amounts related to the sales of a prior year.

ACCOUNTING IN ACTION *Business Insight*



Although many individuals pay for their hotel stay with a credit card, there are many others, especially business groups, that ask to be billed to a master account. These invoices are often thousands of dollars. An association holding an annual convention in a hotel might have twenty to thirty rooms blocked for its officers, meeting space rentals, breakfasts, luncheons, dinners, and breaks, all charged to a single master bill. It is therefore imperative that hotel controllers try to collect the funds as soon as possible. A number of hotel companies send bills to their customers via Federal Express or other courier services if such accounts are more than \$25,000. Why? The customer will have to sign for the delivery of the bill. This eliminates the excuse some customers use, saying they never "received" the bill so that they are not at fault for delinquent payment.

BEFORE YOU GO ON...

► **REVIEW IT**

1. What is the primary criticism of the direct write-off method?
2. Explain the difference between the percentage of sales and the percentage of receivables methods.

► **DO IT**

Brule Gourmet has been in business five years. The ledger at the end of the current year shows Accounts Receivable \$30,000; Sales \$180,000; and Allowance for Doubtful Accounts with a **debit** balance of \$2,000. Bad debts are estimated to be 10 percent of receivables. Prepare the entry to adjust Allowance for Doubtful Accounts.

ACTION PLAN

- Report receivables at their cash (net) realizable value.
- Estimate the amount the company does not expect to collect.
- Consider the existing balance in the allowance account when using the percentage of receivables basis.

SOLUTION

The following entry should be made to bring the balance in Allowance for Doubtful Accounts up to a balance of \$3,000 ($0.1 \times \$30,000$):

| | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| Bad Debts Expense | 5,000 | |
| Allowance for Doubtful Accounts | | 5,000 |
| (To record estimate of uncollectible accounts) | | |



DISPOSING OF ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

In the normal course of events, accounts receivable are collected in cash and removed from the books. However, as credit sales and receivables have grown in significance, their “normal course of events” has changed. Companies now frequently sell their receivables to another company for cash, thereby shortening the cash-to-cash operating cycle.

Receivables are sold for two major reasons:

1. **Receivables may be sold because they may be the only reasonable source of cash.** When money is tight, companies may not be able to borrow money in the usual credit markets. Or if money is available, the cost of borrowing may be prohibitive.
2. **Billing and collection are often time-consuming and costly.** It is often easier for a retailer to sell the receivable to another party with expertise in billing and collection matters. Credit-card companies, such as **MasterCard**, **VISA**, **American Express**, and **Diners Club**, specialize in billing and collecting accounts receivable.

Sale of Receivables

A common sale of receivables is a sale to a factor. A **factor** is a finance company or bank that buys receivables from businesses and then collects the payments directly from the customers. Factoring is a multibillion-dollar business.

Factoring arrangements vary widely. Typically, the factor charges a commission to the company that is selling the receivables. This fee ranges from 1 to 3 percent of the amount of receivables purchased. To illustrate, assume that Hendredon Resort factors \$600,000 of receivables to Federal Factors. Federal Factors assesses a service charge of 2 percent of the amount of receivables sold. The journal entry to record the sale by Hendredon Resort is as follows:

| | | |
|---|---------|---------|
| Cash | 588,000 | |
| Service Charge Expense ($2\% \times \$600,000$) | 12,000 | |
| Accounts Receivable | | 600,000 |
| (To record the sale of accounts receivable) | | |

STUDY OBJECTIVE 4

Describe the entries to record the disposition of accounts receivable.

HELPFUL HINT

Two common expressions apply here:

1. *Time is money.* That is, waiting for the normal collection process costs money.
2. *A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.* That is, getting cash now is better than getting it later.

| |
|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">A = L + SE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+588,000 -12,000</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-600,000</p> |
|--|

If the company often sells its receivables, the service-charge expense (such as that incurred by Hendredon) is recorded as selling expense. If receivables are sold infrequently, this amount may be reported in the “other expenses and losses” section of the income statement.

Credit-Card Sales

HELPFUL HINT
 By accepting credit cards, such as VISA, a retailer can increase its sales while reducing its bad debts expense.

One billion credit cards were estimated to be in use recently—more than three credit cards for every man, woman, and child in the United States. Companies such as **VISA**, **MasterCard**, **Discover**, **American Express**, and **Diners Club** offer national credit cards. Three parties are involved when national credit cards are used in making retail sales: (1) the credit-card issuer, who is independent of the retailer; (2) the retailer; and (3) the customer. A retailer’s acceptance of a national credit card is another form of selling (factoring) the receivable.

The major advantages of these national credit cards to the retailer are shown in Illustration 12-9. In exchange for these advantages, the retailer pays the credit-card issuer a fee of 2 to 6 percent of the invoice price for its services.

Illustration 12-9

Advantages of credit cards to the retailer



CASH SALES: VISA AND MASTERCARD. Sales resulting from the use of **VISA** and **MasterCard** are considered cash sales by the retailer. These cards are issued by banks. On receipt of credit-card sales slips from a retailer, the bank immediately adds the amount to the seller’s bank balance, deducting a fee of 2 to 4 percent of the credit-card sales slips for this service. These credit-card sales slips are recorded in the same manner as checks deposited from a cash sale.

To illustrate, Lee Lenertz purchases \$1,000 of compact discs for her restaurant from Brieschke Music Co., using her VISA First Bank Card. The service fee that the bank charges is 3 percent. The entry to record this transaction by Brieschke Music is as follows:

| | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|--------|
| A | = | L | + | SE |
| +970 | | | | -30 |
| | | | | +1,000 |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-------|
| Cash | 970 | |
| Service Charge Expense | 30 | |
| Sales | | 1,000 |
| (To record VISA credit-card sales) | | |

CREDIT SALES: AMERICAN EXPRESS AND DINERS CLUB. Sales using **American Express** and **Diners Club** cards are reported as credit sales, not cash sales. Conversion into cash does not occur until these companies remit the net amount to the seller. To illustrate, assume that Four Seasons restaurant accepts an American Express card for a \$300 bill. The entry for the sale by Four Seasons, assuming a 5 percent service fee, looks like this:

| | | | | |
|--|-----|--|--|-----|
| Accounts Receivable—American Express | 285 | | | |
| Service Charge Expense | 15 | | | |
| Sales | | | | 300 |
| (To record American Express credit-card sales) | | | | |

| | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|------|
| A | = | L | + | SE |
| +285 | | | | -15 |
| | | | | +300 |

American Express will subsequently pay the restaurant \$285. The restaurant will record this payment as follows.

| | | | | |
|--|-----|--|--|-----|
| Cash | 285 | | | |
| Accounts Receivable—American Express | | | | 285 |
| (To record redemption of credit-card billings) | | | | |

| | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|----|
| A | = | L | + | SE |
| +285 | | | | |
| -285 | | | | |

Service Charge Expense is reported by the restaurant as a selling expense in the income statement.

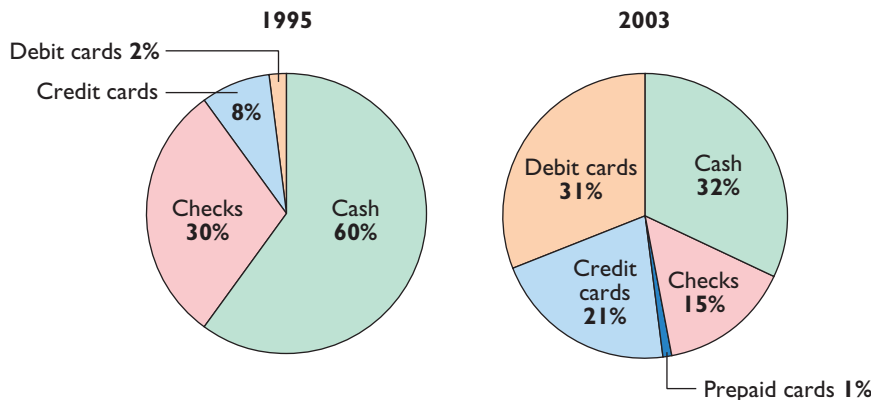
ACCOUNTING IN ACTION *Business Insight*



It used to be that cash was king. Over the past five decades, though, “plastic” has taken over the top spot. Since 1995, the amount that American consumers buy in stores using credit cards has increased 430 percent, according to a Dove Consulting study on consumer preferences. In 2003, for the first time, Americans bought more using cards than they did using cash.

How will this trend affect the amount and the mix of retail businesses’ expenses?

Total in-store purchases by type



SOURCE: *Fortune*, February 23, 2004, p. 132.

BEFORE YOU GO ON...

► **REVIEW IT**

1. Why do companies sell their receivables?
2. What is the journal entry when a company sells its receivables to a factor?
3. How are sales using a VISA or MasterCard reported? Is a sale using an American Express card recorded differently? Explain.

▶ DO IT

Peter M. Dell Food Wholesalers Co. has been expanding faster than it can raise capital. According to its local banker, the company has reached its debt ceiling. Dell's customers are slow in paying (sixty to ninety days), but its suppliers (creditors) are demanding thirty-day payment. Dell has a cash-flow problem.

Dell needs \$120,000 in cash to safely cover next Friday's employee payroll. Its balance of outstanding receivables totals \$750,000. What might Dell do to alleviate this cash crunch? Record the entry that Dell would make when it raises the needed cash.

ACTION PLAN

- To speed up the collection of cash, sell receivables to a factor.
- Calculate service charge expense as a percentage of the factored receivables.

SOLUTION

Assuming that Dell Food Wholesalers factors \$125,000 of its accounts receivable at a 1 percent service charge, the following entry would be made:

| | | |
|---|---------|---------|
| Cash | 123,750 | |
| Service Charge Expense | 1,250 | |
| Accounts Receivable | | 125,000 |
| (To record sale of receivables to factor) | | |



CREDIT POLICIES

STUDY OBJECTIVE 5

Explain why credit policies are needed in the hospitality industry.

Credit policies are crucial in the hospitality industry, especially in the hotel industry, where functions and parties are held. Good credit policies will ensure guest satisfaction, lessen misunderstanding, and ensure that the hospitality business will be able to collect its revenues in a timely manner.

THE CREDIT DEPARTMENT

The credit department of a hotel is normally part of the accounting department. Its function is to set policies and also to work with the sales staff to check the credit of potential guests. For example, a student organization approaches a hotel for its year-end banquet. This hotel does not know the organization or any of its personnel. The credit department will ask the hotel sales representatives to have the student organization liaison complete a credit application form. The form asks for information such as bank accounts, businesses the student organization has dealt with before, address, phone number, and the like. The credit department then will do its due diligence to hopefully award credit to this organization while the sales personnel discusses the banquet and the needs of this new potential client. Once credit is approved, it is also customary for a hotel to ask for a deposit and to have a contract signed. One might think that all these may be a bit too much work. However, consider a function that is \$50 per person. If 100 people attend, it is \$5,000. All you need is one bad incident, and the hotel's profit for the event is gone.

THE CREDIT POLICY BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE EVENT

Policies always should be followed; but in the hospitality business, you might be dealing with people who are not good event planners. This means that unexpected questions will arise. Imagine a wedding where the bride's parents have everything set with the hotel staff for a reception of 200 people. Despite the advice of the sales staff that the party might need more food because it is held during dinner-time, the family goes with its own estimate. The credit approval is only for a certain

amount. The hotel approves the credit to a certain amount and requests and requires a deposit from the wedding party.

On the day of the wedding, forty unexpected guests arrive. Within half an hour into the reception, the food is gone. The groom's family is telling the banquet captain to bring out more food. Some guests ask the waitstaff for additional canapés. Who actually has the authority to order more food on the spot? The bride wants to add more champagne for the guests. If champagne is \$50 a bottle and the bride wants another ten bottles, that is \$500. Should the hotel staff take her order? What if later on, the parents do not agree with this and do not want to pay? Should they write a check of \$500 right there? Can they be billed later? When it comes to money, all these polices should be set ahead of time so that embarrassing moments like these will not occur.

CITY LEDGER OF A HOTEL

As mentioned earlier, a hotel keeps two ledgers: the guest ledger and the city ledger. The guest ledger is associated with guests staying at the hotel, whereas the city ledger contains all other billings. As you can well imagine, it is easier to collect from people who are staying in your hotel because they are physically there. However, for city ledger accounts, collection can be challenging at times.

The city ledger can include individual billings, corporate accounts, group and travel agents, and banquet accounts. An individual might want to rent a function room for a meeting. Corporations might have training sessions for all their first-level managers. They might bring anywhere from 50 to 100 people to a hotel for a few days. The guest rooms, function rooms, and food and beverage bills can add up to thousands of dollars.

Besides training, corporations also hold incentive trips to reward their sales staff. These trips can be big affairs and are wonderful business for hotels. Associations hold annual membership conferences, trade shows, and conventions. Travel agencies book tour groups into hotels. Weddings, birthdays, and anniversaries are all common functions. Did we mention how much these functions can cost? A wealthy businessman once held a dinner for about eighty of his friends and spent more than \$75,000, close to \$1,000 per person. Of course, this wealthy person paid his bill.

What if, *just what if*, the hotel does not have a good credit policy or no good accounting personnel to work its city ledger for collection? Well, for one thing, the hotel would not be in business for long. Therefore, having a good credit department within the accounting office, good credit policies, and good management of the city ledger is crucial to a successful operation.

In a restaurant, club, theme park, and other hospitality businesses, it is also important to have such practices. However, these businesses are less susceptible to losses in accounts receivables. Most customers pay by cash or credit cards in restaurants. Even if a restaurant caters functions, it normally will ask for a good amount of deposit up front. Clubs, owing to their tax status, cannot take more than 15 percent of their business from nonmembers. In addition, such business normally is referred or sponsored by the members, so there is always a lead to collect if needed.

NOTES RECEIVABLE

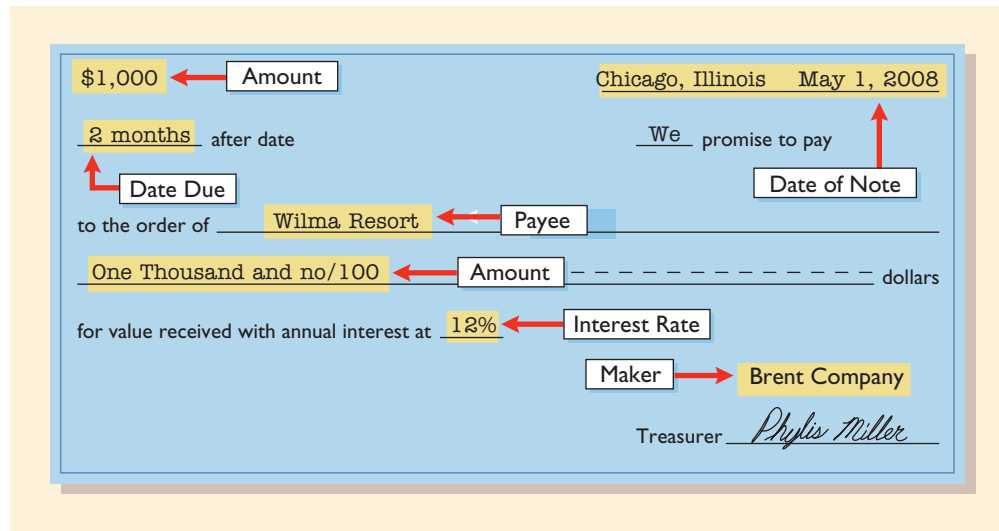
Credit may be granted in exchange for a promissory note. A **promissory note** is a written promise to pay a specified amount of money on demand or at a definite time. Promissory notes may be used (1) when individuals and companies lend or borrow money, (2) when the amount of the transaction and the credit period exceed normal limits, or (3) in settlement of accounts receivable.

In a promissory note, the party making the promise to pay is called the **maker**. The party to whom payment is to be made is called the **payee**. The payee may be specifically identified by name or may be designated simply as the bearer of the

note. In the note shown in Illustration 12-10, Brent Company is the maker, and Wilma Resort is the payee. To Wilma Resort, the promissory note is a note receivable; to Brent Company, it is a note payable.

Illustration 12-10

Promissory note



HELPFUL HINT

Who are the two key parties to a note, and what entry does each party make when the note is issued?

Answer:

1. The maker, Brent Company, credits Notes Payable.
2. The payee, Wilma Resort, debits Notes Receivable.

Notes receivable give the payee a stronger legal claim to assets than accounts receivable. Like accounts receivable, notes receivable can be readily sold to another party. Promissory notes are negotiable instruments (as are checks), which means that they can be transferred to another party by endorsement.

Notes receivable are frequently accepted from customers who need to extend the payment of an account receivable. They are often required from high-risk customers. In some industries (such as the pleasure boat industry), all credit sales are supported by notes. The majority of notes originate from loans. The basic issues in accounting for notes receivable are the same as those for accounts receivable:

1. **Recognizing** notes receivable
2. **Valuing** notes receivable
3. **Disposing of** notes receivable

On the following pages we will look at these issues. Before we do, we need to consider two issues that did not apply to accounts receivable: (1) maturity date and (2) computing interest.

DETERMINING THE MATURITY DATE

When the life of a note is expressed in terms of months, the due date (when it matures) is found by counting the months from the date of issue. For example, the maturity date of a three-month note dated May 1 is August 1. A note drawn on the last day of a month matures on the last day of a subsequent month. That is, a July 31 note due in two months matures on September 30.

When the due date is stated in terms of days, you need to count the exact number of days to determine the maturity date. **In counting, the date the note is issued is omitted, but the due date is included.** For example, the maturity date of a sixty-day note dated July 17 is September 15, computed in Illustration 12-11.

STUDY OBJECTIVE 6

Compute the maturity date of and interest on notes receivable.

Illustration 12-11

Computation of maturity date

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Term of note | | 60 days |
| July (31 - 17) | 14 | |
| August | <u>31</u> | <u>45</u> |
| Maturity date: September | | <u>15</u> |

The due date (maturity date) of a promissory note may be stated in one of three ways, as shown in Illustration 12-12.

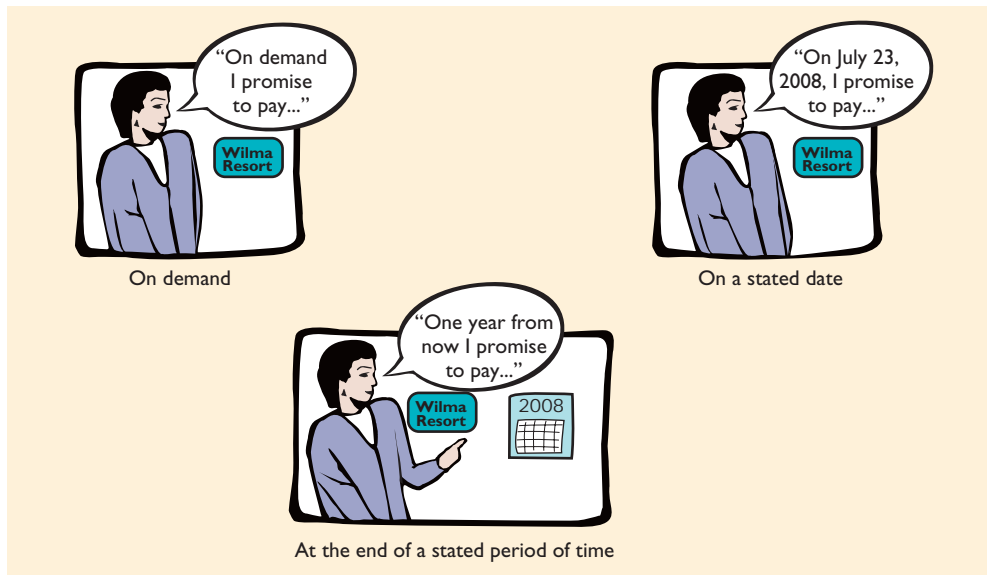


Illustration 12-12

Maturity date of different notes

COMPUTING INTEREST

As indicated in Chapter 4, Illustration 12-13 shows the basic formula for computing interest on an interest-bearing note.

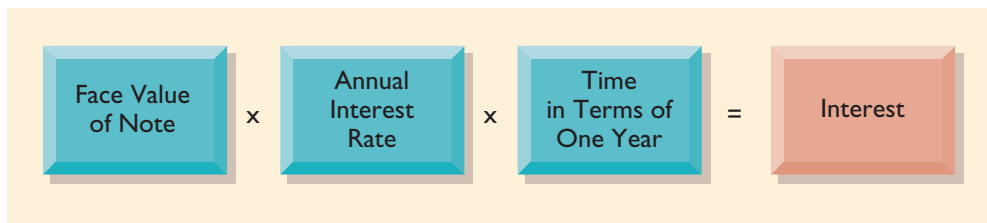


Illustration 12-13

Formula for computing interest

The interest rate specified in a note is an *annual* rate of interest. The time factor in the formula in Illustration 12–13 expresses the fraction of a year that the note is outstanding. When the maturity date is stated in days, the time factor is often the number of days divided by 360. When the due date is stated in months, the time factor is the number of months divided by 12. Computation of interest for various time periods is shown in Illustration 12-14.

HELPFUL HINT

The interest rate specified is the *annual* rate.

| Terms of Note | Interest Computation |
|------------------------|--|
| \$ 730, 18%, 120 days | $\$ 730 \times 18\% \times 120/360 = \$ 43.80$ |
| \$1,000, 15%, 6 months | $\$1,000 \times 15\% \times 6/12 = \$ 75.00$ |
| \$2,000, 12%, 1 year | $\$2,000 \times 12\% \times 1/1 = \240.00 |

Illustration 12-14

Computation of interest

There are many different ways to calculate interest. The preceding computation assumed 360 days for the length of the year. Many financial institutions use 365 days. It is more profitable to use 360 days; the holder of the note receives more interest than if 365 days are used. For homework problems, assume 360 days.

STUDY OBJECTIVE 7

Explain how notes receivable are recognized in the accounts.

| | | | | |
|--------|---|---|---|----|
| A | = | L | + | SE |
| +1,000 | | | | |
| -1,000 | | | | |

RECOGNIZING NOTES RECEIVABLE

To illustrate the basic entry for notes receivable, we will use the \$1,000, two-month, 12 percent promissory note on page 362. Assuming that the note was written to settle an open account, the entry for the receipt of the note by Wilma Resort is

| | | | |
|-------|--|-------|-------|
| May 1 | Notes Receivable | 1,000 | |
| | Accounts Receivable—Brent Company | | 1,000 |
| | (To record acceptance of Brent Company note) | | |

Observe that the note receivable is recorded at its **face value**, the value shown on the face of the note. No interest revenue is reported when the note is accepted because the revenue recognition principle does not recognize revenue until earned. Interest is earned (accrued) as time passes.

If a note is exchanged for cash, the entry is a debit to Notes Receivable and a credit to Cash in the amount of the loan.

VALUING NOTES RECEIVABLE

Valuing short-term notes receivable is the same as valuing accounts receivable. Like accounts receivable, short-term notes receivable are reported at their **cash (net) realizable value**. The notes receivable allowance account is Allowance for Doubtful Accounts. The estimations involved in determining cash realizable value and in recording bad debts expense and related allowance are similar.

STUDY OBJECTIVE 8

Describe how notes receivable are valued.

ACCOUNTING IN ACTION *International Insight*

One important component of a note is its interest rate. If you are issuing a note receivable, you sure would like to have it at a higher rate, thereby earning more interest payment. On the contrary, if you are writing a note payable, you would want to negotiate the note at the lowest rate possible so that you will not need to pay that much interest. Interest rates go through cycles, with the highest prime rate recorded at 20.50 percent in August 1981 in the United States. In the early 2000s, interest rates still were relatively low, dropping from 9.0 percent to as low as 4.0 percent. However, around 2005, interest rates in the United States began inching higher and higher. The lowest prime rate was recorded at 4.0 percent in 2003 and 2004. In June 2006, the prime rate broke 8.0 percent, went up to 8.25 percent in July and stayed at the same rate and dropped back to 7.50 percent effective October 31, 2007. So shop before you sign any note or borrow any funds for your operations.

STUDY OBJECTIVE 9

Describe the entries to record the disposition of notes receivable.

DISPOSING OF NOTES RECEIVABLE

Notes may be held to their maturity date, at which time the face value plus accrued interest is due. Sometimes the maker of the note defaults, and an adjustment to the accounts must be made. At other times, the holder of the note speeds up the conversion to cash by selling the note. The entries for honoring and dishonoring notes are illustrated in this section.

Honor of Notes Receivable

A note is **honored** when it is paid in full at its maturity date. For an interest-bearing note, the amount due at maturity is the face value of the note plus interest for the length of time specified on the note.

To illustrate, assume that Betty Hospitality, Inc., lends Wayne Higley, Inc., \$10,000 on June 1, accepting a four-month, 9 percent interest note. Interest will be \$300 ($\$10,000 \times 9\% \times 4/12$). The amount due, the maturity value, will be \$10,300. To obtain

payment, Betty Hospitality, Inc. (the payee), must present the note either to Wayne Higley, Inc. (the maker), or to the maker's duly appointed agent, such as a bank. Assuming that Betty Hospitality, Inc., presents the note to Wayne Higley, Inc., on the maturity date, the entry by Betty Hospitality, Inc., to record the collection is

| | | | |
|--------|--|--------|--------|
| Oct. 1 | Cash | 10,300 | |
| | Notes Receivable | | 10,000 |
| | Interest Revenue | | 300 |
| | (To record collection of Higley, Inc., note) | | |

| | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|------|
| A | = | L | + | SE |
| +10,300 | | | | +300 |
| -10,000 | | | | |

If Betty Hospitality, Inc., prepares financial statements as of September 30, it would be necessary to accrue interest. In this case, the adjusting entry by Betty Hospitality, Inc., would be to record four months' interest (\$300), as shown:

| | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Sept. 30 | Interest Receivable | 300 | |
| | Interest Revenue | | 300 |
| | (To accrue 4 months' interest) | | |

| | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|------|
| A | = | L | + | SE |
| +300 | | | | +300 |

When interest has been accrued, at maturity it is necessary to credit Interest Receivable. The entry by Betty Hospitality, Inc., to record the honoring of the Wayne Higley, Inc., note on October 1 is

| | | | |
|--------|--|--------|--------|
| Oct. 1 | Cash | 10,300 | |
| | Notes Receivable | | 10,000 |
| | Interest Receivable | | 300 |
| | (To record collection of note at maturity) | | |

| | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|----|
| A | = | L | + | SE |
| +10,300 | | | | |
| -10,000 | | | | |
| -300 | | | | |

In this case, Interest Receivable is credited because the receivable was established in the adjusting entry.

Dishonor of Notes Receivable

A **dishonored note** is a note that is not paid in full at maturity. A dishonored note receivable is no longer negotiable. However, the payee still has a claim against the maker of the note. Therefore, the Notes Receivable account is usually transferred to an Account Receivable.

To illustrate, assume that Wayne Higley, Inc., on October 1 indicates that it cannot pay at the present time. The entry to record the dishonor of the note depends on whether eventual collection is expected. If Betty Hospitality, Inc., expects eventual collection, the amount due (face value and interest) on the note is debited to Accounts Receivable. Betty Hospitality, Inc., would make the following entry at the time the note is dishonored (assuming no previous accrual of interest):

| | | | |
|--------|--|--------|--------|
| Oct. 1 | Accounts Receivable—Wayne Higley, Inc. | 10,300 | |
| | Notes Receivable | | 10,000 |
| | Interest Revenue | | 300 |
| | (To record the dishonor of Higley, Inc., note) | | |

| | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|------|
| A | = | L | + | SE |
| +10,300 | | | | +300 |
| -10,000 | | | | |

If there is no hope of collection, the face value of the note would be written off by debiting Allowance for Doubtful Accounts. No interest revenue would be recorded because collection will not occur.

Sale of Notes Receivable

The accounting for the sale of notes receivable is recorded similarly to the sale of accounts receivable. The accounting entries for the sale of notes receivable are left for a more advanced course.

BEFORE YOU GO ON...▶ **REVIEW IT**

1. What is the basic formula for computing interest?
2. At what value are notes receivable reported on the balance sheet?
3. Explain the difference between honoring and dishonoring a note receivable.

▶ **DO IT**

Gambit Logo Shirts accepts from Leonard Golf Proshop a \$3,400, ninety-day, 12 percent note dated May 10 in settlement of Leonard's overdue account. What is the maturity date of the note? What is the entry made by Gambit at the maturity date, assuming Leonard pays the note and interest in full at that time?

ACTION PLAN

- Count the exact number of days to determine the maturity date. Omit the date the note is issued, but include the due date.
- Determine whether interest was accrued. The entry here assumes that no interest has been previously accrued on this note.

SOLUTION

The maturity date is August 8, computed as follows:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Term of note: | | 90 days |
| May (31 - 10) | 21 | |
| June | 30 | |
| July | <u>31</u> | <u>82</u> |
| Maturity date: August | | <u><u>8</u></u> |

The interest payable at maturity date is \$102, computed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Face} \times \text{Rate} \times \text{Time} &= \text{Interest} \\ \$3,400 \times 12\% \times 90/360 &= \$102 \end{aligned}$$

The entry recorded by Gambit Logo Shirts at the maturity date is

| | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| Cash | 3,502 | |
| Notes Receivable | | 3,400 |
| Interest Revenue | | 102 |
| (To record collection of Leonard note) | | |



ACCOUNTING IN ACTION *Business Insight*



Can a hotel company make money selling notes receivable? Absolutely. In 2005, Dallas-based Silverleaf Resorts, Inc., reported a net income of \$12.9 million in its third quarterly report. Included in that figure is a gain of sale in its notes receivable of \$5.8 million. Together with other adjustments, its third-quarter adjusted net income was \$5.0 million. This also holds true for Hilton Grand Vacations in June 2002, when Hilton's timeshare segment sold approximately \$52 million of its timeshare notes receivable to a subsidiary of GE Capital, resulting in a gain of approximately \$2 million in the second quarter. Starwood Hotel and Resorts also reported gains from the sales of notes receivable of \$25 million and \$14 million in 2005 and 2004, respectively, primarily owing to the sale of approximately \$221 million and \$113 million of vacation ownership receivables during the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004.

WHAT IS A CURRENT LIABILITY?

As explained in Chapter 5, a **current liability** is a debt with two key features: (1) It can reasonably be expected to be paid from existing current assets or through the creation of other current liabilities. (2) It will be paid within one year or the operating cycle, whichever is longer. Debts that do not meet *both criteria* are classified as long-term liabilities. Most companies pay current liabilities within one year out of current assets rather than by creating other liabilities.

Companies must carefully monitor the relationship of current liabilities to current assets. This relationship is critical in evaluating a company's short-term debt-paying ability. A company that has more current liabilities than current assets is usually the subject of some concern because the company may not be able to meet its current obligations when they become due.

Current liabilities include notes payable, accounts payable, and unearned revenues. They also include accrued liabilities such as taxes, salaries and wages, and interest payable. The entries for accounts payable and the adjusting entries for some current liabilities were explained in previous chapters. Other types of current liabilities that are often encountered are discussed in the following sections.

NOTES PAYABLE

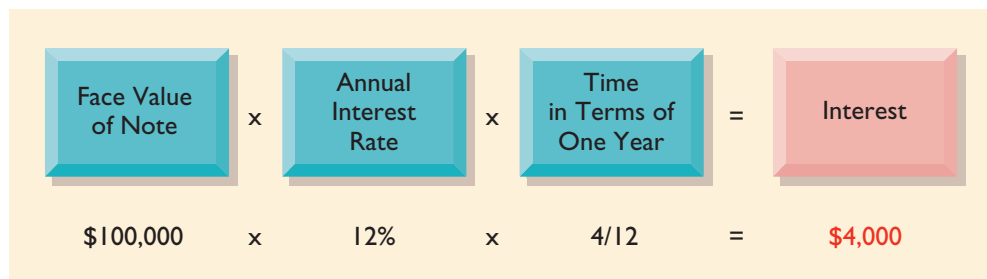
Obligations in the form of written promissory notes are recorded as **notes payable**. Notes payable are often used instead of accounts payable. Doing so gives the lender formal proof of the obligation in case legal remedies are needed to collect the debt. Notes payable usually require the borrower to pay interest and frequently are issued to meet short-term financing needs.

Notes are issued for varying periods. **Those due for payment within one year of the balance sheet date are usually classified as current liabilities.** Most notes are interest bearing.

To illustrate the accounting for notes payable, assume that First National Bank agrees to lend \$100,000 on March 1, 2008, if Williams Restaurant signs a \$100,000, 12 percent, four-month note. With an interest-bearing promissory note, the amount of assets received on issuance of the note generally equals the note's face value. Williams Restaurant therefore will receive \$100,000 cash and will make the following journal entry:

| | | | | |
|--------|--|---------|---------|--|
| Mar. 1 | Cash | 100,000 | | |
| | Notes Payable | | 100,000 | |
| | (To record issuance of 12%, 4-month note to First National Bank) | | | |

Interest accrues over the life of the note and must be recorded periodically. If Williams Restaurant prepares financial statements semiannually, an adjusting entry is required at June 30 to recognize interest expense and interest payable of \$4,000 ($\$100,000 \times 12\% \times 4/12$). The formula for computing interest and its application to Williams Restaurant's note are shown in Illustration 12-15.



STUDY OBJECTIVE 10

Explain a current liability, and identify the major types of current liabilities.

HELPFUL HINT

The current liabilities section of the balance sheet gives creditors a good idea of what obligations are coming due.

STUDY OBJECTIVE 11

Describe the accounting for notes payable.

| | | | | |
|----------|---|----------|---|----|
| A | = | L | + | SE |
| +100,000 | | +100,000 | | |

Illustration 12-15

Formula for computing interest

The adjusting entry looks like this:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-------|-------|--------|----|--------|--|--|--|--------|--|---------|------------------|-------|--|--|------------------|--|-------|--|---|--|--|
| <table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">A</td> <td style="text-align: center;">=</td> <td style="text-align: center;">L</td> <td style="text-align: center;">+</td> <td style="text-align: center;">SE</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">+4,000</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">-4,000</td> </tr> </table> | A | = | L | + | SE | +4,000 | | | | -4,000 | <table border="1"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">June 30</td> <td style="width: 60%;">Interest Expense</td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: right;">4,000</td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Interest Payable</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">4,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">(To accrue interest for 4 months on First National Bank note)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | June 30 | Interest Expense | 4,000 | | | Interest Payable | | 4,000 | | (To accrue interest for 4 months on First National Bank note) | | |
| A | = | L | + | SE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| +4,000 | | | | -4,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| June 30 | Interest Expense | 4,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Interest Payable | | 4,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | (To accrue interest for 4 months on First National Bank note) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

In the June 30 financial statements, the current liabilities section of the balance sheet will show notes payable \$100,000 and interest payable \$4,000. In addition, interest expense of \$4,000 will be reported under “other expenses and losses” in the income statement. If Williams prepared financial statements monthly, the adjusting entry at the end of each month would have been \$1,000 ($\$100,000 \times 12\% \times 1/12$).

At maturity (July 1, 2008), Williams must pay the face value of the note (\$100,000) plus \$4,000 interest ($\$100,000 \times 12\% \times 4/12$). The entry to record payment of the note and accrued interest is as follows:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|----------|---------|--------|----|----------|--|----------|--|--------|---|--------|---------------|---------|--|--|------------------|-------|--|--|------|--|---------|--|---|--|--|
| <table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">A</td> <td style="text-align: center;">=</td> <td style="text-align: center;">L</td> <td style="text-align: center;">+</td> <td style="text-align: center;">SE</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">-104,000</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">-100,000</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">-4,000</td> </tr> </table> | A | = | L | + | SE | -104,000 | | -100,000 | | -4,000 | <table border="1"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">July 1</td> <td style="width: 60%;">Notes Payable</td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: right;">100,000</td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Interest Payable</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4,000</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Cash</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">104,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">(To record payment of First National Bank interest-bearing note and accrued interest at maturity)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | July 1 | Notes Payable | 100,000 | | | Interest Payable | 4,000 | | | Cash | | 104,000 | | (To record payment of First National Bank interest-bearing note and accrued interest at maturity) | | |
| A | = | L | + | SE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| -104,000 | | -100,000 | | -4,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| July 1 | Notes Payable | 100,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Interest Payable | 4,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Cash | | 104,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | (To record payment of First National Bank interest-bearing note and accrued interest at maturity) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

SALES TAXES PAYABLE

STUDY OBJECTIVE 12

Explain the accounting for other current liabilities.

As a consumer, you know that when you eat at a restaurant, the food is subject to sales taxes. The tax is expressed as a stated percentage of the sales price. The retailer collects the tax from the customer when the sale occurs. Periodically (usually monthly), the restaurant remits the collections to the state’s department of revenue.

Under most state sales tax laws, the amount of the sale and the amount of the sales tax collected must be rung up separately on the cash register. The cash register readings are then used to credit Sales and Sales Taxes Payable. For example, if the March 25 cash register reading for Cooley Restaurant shows sales of \$10,000 and sales taxes of \$600 (sales tax rate of 6 percent), the entry looks like this:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--------|--------|---------|----|---------|--|------|--|---------|---|---------|------|--------|--|--|-------|--|--------|--|---------------------|--|-----|--|---|--|--|
| <table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">A</td> <td style="text-align: center;">=</td> <td style="text-align: center;">L</td> <td style="text-align: center;">+</td> <td style="text-align: center;">SE</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">+10,600</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">+600</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">+10,000</td> </tr> </table> | A | = | L | + | SE | +10,600 | | +600 | | +10,000 | <table border="1"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">Mar. 25</td> <td style="width: 60%;">Cash</td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: right;">10,600</td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Sales</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">10,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Sales Taxes Payable</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">600</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">(To record daily sales and sales taxes)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | Mar. 25 | Cash | 10,600 | | | Sales | | 10,000 | | Sales Taxes Payable | | 600 | | (To record daily sales and sales taxes) | | |
| A | = | L | + | SE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| +10,600 | | +600 | | +10,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mar. 25 | Cash | 10,600 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Sales | | 10,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Sales Taxes Payable | | 600 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | (To record daily sales and sales taxes) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

When the taxes are remitted to the taxing agency, Sales Taxes Payable is debited and Cash is credited. The company does not report sales taxes as an expense. It simply forwards to the government the amount paid by the customers. Thus Cooley serves only as a **collection agent** for the taxing authority.

When sales taxes are not rung up separately on the cash register, they must be extracted from the total receipts. To determine the amount of sales in such cases, divide total receipts by 100 percent plus the sales tax percentage. To illustrate, assume that in the preceding example Cooley rings up total receipts, which are \$10,600. The receipts from the sales are equal to the sales price (100 percent) plus the tax percentage (6 percent of sales), or 1.06 times the sales total. We can compute the sales amount as follows:

$$\$10,600 \div 1.06 = \$10,000$$

HELPFUL HINT

Alternatively, Cooley could find the tax by multiplying sales by the sales tax rate ($\$10,000 \times 6$ percent).

Thus Cooley Restaurant could find the sales tax amount it must remit to the state by subtracting sales from total receipts (\$10,600 – \$10,000).

ACCOUNTING IN ACTION Business Insight



If you buy a book at a bookstore, you pay sales tax. If you buy the same book over the Internet, you don't pay sales tax (in most cases). This is one reason why e-commerce, as it has come to be called, has been growing exponentially and why Web sites like **Amazon.com** have become so popular. A recent study suggested that Internet sales would fall by 30 percent if sales tax were applied. In December 2001, Congress passed and President Bush signed into law a two-year extension to the ban on sales taxes on Internet purchases. While Internet retailers were pleased, the American Booksellers Association protested the ban, saying it gives online booksellers such as Amazon.com an unfair advantage over bricks-and-mortar bookstores.



SOURCE: Edward Nawotka, "Bush Extends Internet Tax Ban," *Publishers Weekly*, December 3, 2001, p. 18.

PAYROLL AND PAYROLL TAXES PAYABLE

Every employer incurs liabilities relating to employees' salaries and wages. One liability is the amount of wages and salaries owed to employees—**wages and salaries payable**. Another is the amount required by law to be withheld from employees' gross pay. Until these **withholding taxes** (federal and state income taxes and Social Security taxes) are remitted to the governmental taxing authorities, they are credited to appropriate liability accounts. For example, if a corporation withholds taxes from its employees' wages and salaries, accrual and payment of a \$100,000 payroll would be recorded as follows:

| | | | | |
|----------|---|---------|--------|--|
| March 7 | Salaries and Wages Expense | 100,000 | | $\begin{array}{r} A = L + SE \\ +7,250 \quad -100,000 \\ +21,864 \\ +2,922 \\ +67,964 \end{array}$ |
| | FICA Taxes Payable ¹ | | 7,250 | |
| | Federal Income Taxes Payable | | 21,864 | |
| | State Income Taxes Payable | | 2,922 | |
| | Salaries and Wages Payable | | 67,964 | |
| | (To record payroll and withholding taxes for the week ending March 7) | | | |
| March 11 | Salaries and Wages Payable | 67,964 | | $\begin{array}{r} A = L + SE \\ -67,964 \quad -67,964 \end{array}$ |
| | Cash | | 67,964 | |
| | (To record payment of the March 7 payroll) | | | |

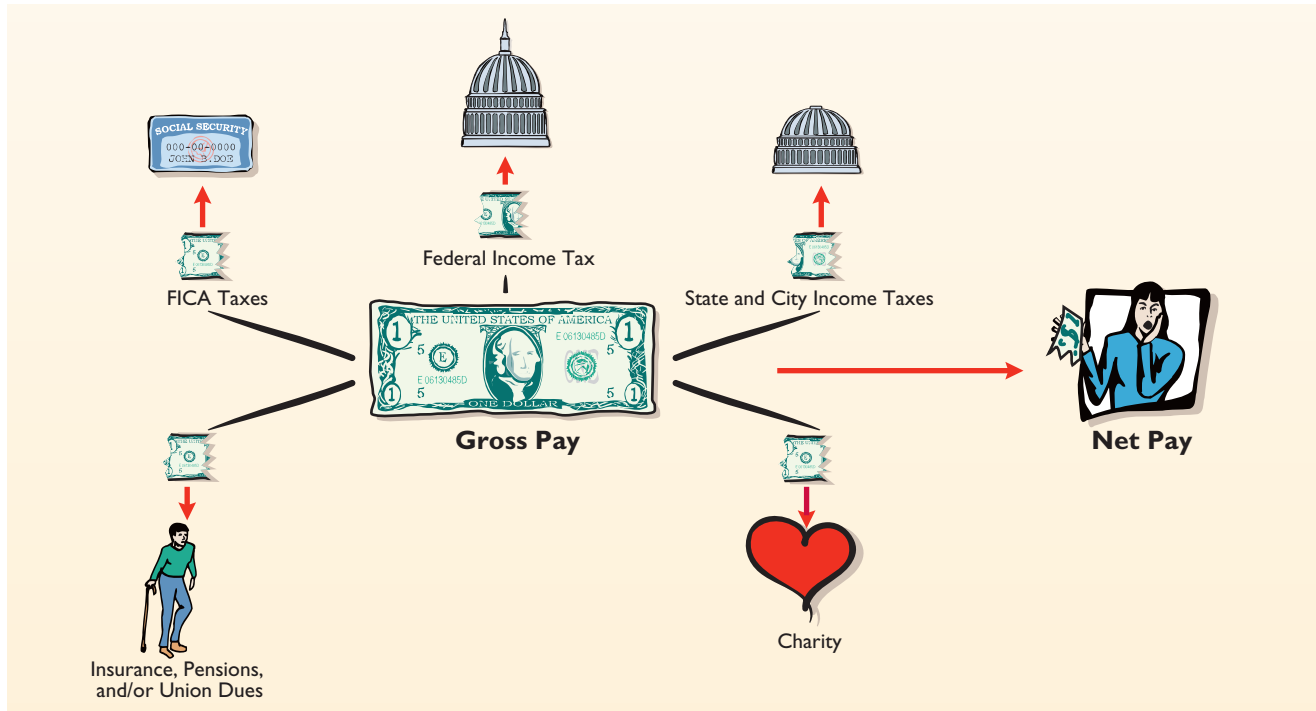
Illustration 12-16 on page 370 summarizes the types of payroll deductions.

Also, with every payroll, the employer incurs liabilities to pay various **payroll taxes** levied on the employer. These payroll taxes include the employer's share of Social Security taxes and the state and federal unemployment taxes. Based on the \$100,000 payroll in the preceding example, the

¹Social Security taxes are commonly referred to as FICA taxes. In 1937, Congress enacted the Federal Insurance Contribution Act (FICA). This act and other payroll issues are discussed in greater detail in Chapter 11.

Illustration 12-16

Payroll deductions



following entry would be made to record the employer's expense and liability for these payroll taxes:

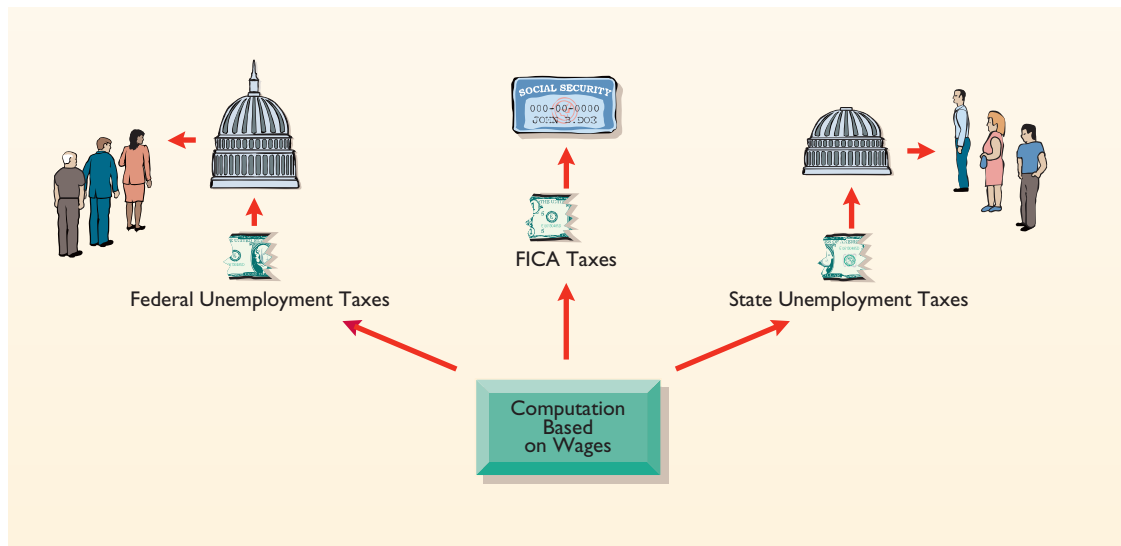
| | | | | |
|---|---|--------|---|---------|
| A | = | L | + | SE |
| | | +7,250 | | -13,450 |
| | | +800 | | |
| | | +5,400 | | |

| | | | |
|---------|---|--------|-------|
| March 7 | Payroll Tax Expense | 13,450 | |
| | FICA Taxes Payable | | 7,250 |
| | Federal Unemployment Taxes Payable | | 800 |
| | State Unemployment Taxes Payable | | 5,400 |
| | (To record employer's payroll taxes on March 7 payroll) | | |

Illustration 12-17

Employer payroll taxes

Illustration 12-17 shows the types of taxes levied on employers.



The payroll and payroll tax liability accounts are classified as current liabilities because they must be paid to employees or remitted to taxing authorities in the near term. Taxing authorities impose substantial fines and penalties on employers if the withholding and payroll taxes are not computed correctly and paid on time.

UNEARNED REVENUES

A hotel, such as **Hilton**, receives a customer’s check when a banquet is ordered. An airline company, such as **American Airlines**, receives cash when it sells tickets for future flights. Through these transactions, both companies have incurred unearned revenues—revenues that are received before goods are delivered or services are rendered. How do companies account for unearned revenues?

1. When the advance payment is received, Cash is debited, and a current liability account identifying the source of the unearned revenue is credited.
2. When the revenue is earned, the Unearned Revenue account is debited, and an earned revenue account is credited.

To illustrate, assume that Superior Catering sells a party for 10,000 people at \$50 each for a Thanksgiving event. The entry for the sale looks like this:

| | | | | |
|--------|---------------------------|--|---------|---------|
| Aug. 6 | Cash | | 500,000 | |
| | Unearned Catering Revenue | | | 500,000 |

| | | | | |
|----------|---|----------|---|----|
| A | = | L | + | SE |
| +500,000 | | +500,000 | | |

As the function is completed, the following entry is made:

| | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|--|---------|---------|
| Sept. 7 | Unearned Revenue | | 500,000 | |
| | Sales Revenue | | | 500,000 |
| | (To record revenues earned) | | | |

| | | | | |
|----------|---|----------|---|----|
| A | = | L | + | SE |
| -500,000 | | +500,000 | | |

Any balance in an unearned revenue account is reported as a current liability in the balance sheet. As revenue is earned, a transfer from unearned revenue to earned revenue occurs. Unearned revenue is material for some companies: In the airline industry, for example, tickets sold for future flights represent almost 50 percent of total current liabilities. At **United Air Lines**, unearned ticket revenue is the largest current liability, recently amounting to more than \$1 billion.

Illustration 12-18 shows specific unearned and earned revenue accounts used in selected types of businesses.

| Type of Business | Account Title | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Unearned Revenue | Earned Revenue |
| Airline | Unearned Passenger Ticket Revenue | Passenger Revenue |
| Magazine publisher | Unearned Subscription Revenue | Subscription Revenue |
| Hotel | Unearned Rental Revenue | Rental Revenue |
| Insurance company | Unearned Premium Revenue | Premium Revenue |

Illustration 12-18
Unearned and earned revenue accounts

CURRENT MATURITIES OF LONG-TERM DEBT

Companies often have a portion of long-term debt that comes due in the current year. That amount would be considered a current liability. For example, assume that Wendy Construction issues a five-year, interest-bearing, \$25,000 note on January 1, 2008. Each January 1, starting January 1, 2009, \$5,000 of the note is due to be paid. When financial statements are prepared on December 31, 2008, \$5,000

should be reported as a current liability. The remaining \$20,000 on the note would be reported as a long-term liability. Current maturities of long-term debt are often termed **long-term debt due within one year**.

It is not necessary to prepare an adjusting entry to recognize the current maturity of long-term debt. The proper statement classification of each balance sheet account is recognized when the balance sheet is prepared.

DEMONSTRATION PROBLEM

The following selected transactions relate to Falcetto Souvenirs Company:

- Mar. 1 Sold \$20,000 of merchandise to Potter Hotels, terms 2/10, n/30.
- 11 Received payment in full from Potter Hotels for balance due.
- 12 Accepted Juno Resorts \$20,000, 6-month, 12% note for balance due.
- 15 Made American Express credit sales totaling \$6,700. A 5% service fee is charged by American Express.
- 30 Received payment in full from American Express Company.
- Apr. 11 Sold accounts receivable of \$8,000 to Harcot Factor. Harcot Factor assesses a service charge of 2% of the amount of receivables sold.
- May 10 Wrote off as uncollectible \$16,000 of accounts receivable. Falcetto uses the percentage of sales basis to estimate bad debts.
- June 30 Credit sales for the first 6 months total \$2,000,000. The bad debt percentage is 1% of credit sales. At June 30, the balance in the allowance account is \$3,500.
- July 16 One of the accounts receivable written off in May was from J. Simon, who pays the amount due, \$4,000, in full.

Instructions

Prepare the journal entries for the transactions.

SOLUTION TO DEMONSTRATION PROBLEM

ACTION PLAN

- Generally, record accounts receivable at invoice price.
- Recognize that sales returns and allowances and cash discounts reduce the amount received on accounts receivable.
- Record a service charge expense on the seller's books when accounts receivable are sold.
- Prepare an adjusting entry for bad debts expense.
- Ignore any balance in the allowance account under the percentage of sales basis. Recognize the balance in the allowance account under the percentage of receivables basis.
- Record write-offs of accounts receivable only in balance sheet accounts.

| | | | |
|---------|---|---------------|--------|
| Mar. 1 | Accounts Receivable—Potter Sales (To record sales on account) | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| 11 | Cash Sales Discounts (2% × \$20,000) Accounts Receivable—Potter (To record collection of accounts receivable) | 19,600 400 | 20,000 |
| 12 | Notes Receivable Accounts Receivable—Juno (To record acceptance of Juno Company note) | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| 15 | Accounts Receivable—American Express Service Charge Expense (5% × \$6,700) Sales (To record credit-card sales) | 6,365 335 | 6,700 |
| Mar. 30 | Cash Accounts Receivable—American Express (To record redemption of credit-card billings) | 6,365 | 6,365 |
| Apr. 11 | Cash Service Charge Expense (2% × \$8,000) Accounts Receivable (To record sale of receivables to factor) | 7,840 160 | 8,000 |

| | | | |
|---------|---|--------|--------|
| May 10 | Allowance for Doubtful Accounts Accounts Receivable (To record write-off of accounts receivable) | 16,000 | 16,000 |
| June 30 | Bad Debts Expense ($\$2,000,000 \times 1\%$) Allowance for Doubtful Accounts (To record estimate of uncollectible accounts) | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| July 16 | Accounts Receivable—J. Simon Allowance for Doubtful Accounts (To reverse write-off of accounts receivable) | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| 16 | Cash Accounts Receivable—J. Simon (To record collection of accounts receivable) | 4,000 | 4,000 |



SUMMARY OF STUDY OBJECTIVES

1. Identify the different types of receivables. Receivables are frequently classified as (1) accounts, (2) notes, and (3) other. Accounts receivable are amounts owed by customers on account. Notes receivable are claims for which formal instruments of credit are issued as proof of the debt. Other receivables include nontrade receivables, such as interest receivable, loans to company officers, advances to employees, and income taxes refundable.

2. Explain how accounts receivable are recognized in the accounts. Accounts receivable are recorded at invoice price. They are reduced by Sales Returns and Allowances. Cash discounts reduce the amount received on accounts receivable. When interest is charged on a past due receivable, this interest is added to the accounts receivable balance and is recognized as interest revenue.

3. Distinguish between the methods and the bases used to value accounts receivable. There are two methods of accounting for uncollectible accounts: (1) the allowance method and (2) the direct write-off method. Either the percentage of sales or the percentage of receivables basis may be used to estimate uncollectible accounts using the allowance method. The percentage of sales basis emphasizes the matching principle. The percentage of receivables basis emphasizes the cash realizable value of the accounts receivable. An aging schedule is often used with this basis.

4. Describe the entries to record the disposition of accounts receivable. When an account receivable is collected, Accounts Receivable is credited. When an account receivable is sold, a service charge expense is charged, which reduces the amount collected.

5. Explain why credit policies are needed in the hospitality industry. Credit policies are needed in the hospitality industry, especially in the hotel industry, where functions and parties are held. Good credit policies will ensure guest satisfaction, lessen misunderstanding, and ensure that the hospitality business will be able to collect its revenues in a timely manner.

6. Compute the maturity date of and interest on notes receivable. The maturity date of a note must be computed unless the due date is specified or the note is payable on demand. For a note stated in months, the maturity date is found by counting the months from the date of issue. For a note stated in days, the number of days is counted, omitting the issue date and counting the due date. The formula for computing interest is $\text{Face Value} \times \text{Interest Rate} \times \text{Time}$.

7. Explain how notes receivable are recognized in the accounts. Notes receivable are recorded at face value. In some cases, it is necessary to accrue interest prior to maturity. In this case, Interest Receivable is debited and Interest Revenue is credited.

8. Describe how notes receivable are valued. Like accounts receivable, notes receivable are reported at their cash (net) realizable value. The notes receivable allowance account is Allowance for Doubtful Accounts. The computation and estimations involved in valuing notes receivable at cash realizable value and in recording the proper amount of bad debts expense and related allowance are similar to those for accounts receivable.

9. Describe the entries to record the disposition of notes receivable. Notes can be held to maturity. At that time the face value plus accrued interest is due, and the note is removed from the accounts. In many cases, the holder of the note speeds up the conversion by selling the receivable to another party. In some situations, the maker of the note dishonors the note (defaults), and the note is written off.

10. Explain a current liability, and identify the major types of current liabilities. A current liability is a debt that can be reasonably expected to be paid (1) from existing current assets or through the creation of other current liabilities and (2) within one year or the operating cycle, whichever is longer. The major types of current liabilities are notes payable, accounts payable, sales taxes payable, unearned revenues, and accrued liabilities, such as taxes, salaries and wages, and interest payable.

11. Describe the accounting of notes payable. When a promissory note is interest bearing, the amount of assets received upon the issuance of the note is generally equal to the face value of the note. Interest expense is accrued over the life of the note. At maturity, the amount paid is equal to the face value of the note plus accrued interest.

12. Explain the accounting for other current liabilities. Sales taxes payable are recorded at the time the related sales occur. The company serves as a collection agent for the taxing au-

thority. Sales taxes are not an expense to the company. Until employee withholding taxes are remitted to governmental taxing authorities, they are credited to appropriate liability accounts. Unearned revenues are initially recorded in an unearned revenue account. As the revenue is earned, a transfer from unearned revenue to earned revenue occurs. The current maturities of long-term debt should be reported as a current liability in the balance sheet.



GLOSSARY

Accounts receivable Amounts owed by customers on account as a result from the sale of goods and services (p. 348).

Agging of accounts receivable The analysis of customer balances by the length of time they have been unpaid (p. 355).

Allowance method A method of accounting for bad debts that involves estimating uncollectible accounts at the end of each period (p. 351).

Bad Debts Expense An expense account to record uncollectible receivables (p. 350).

Cash (net) realizable value The net amount expected to be received in cash (p. 351).

Direct write-off method A method of accounting for bad debts that involves expensing accounts at the time they are determined to be uncollectible (p. 350).

Dishonored note A note that is not paid in full at maturity (p. 365).

Factor A finance company or bank that buys receivables from businesses and then collects the payments directly from the customers (p. 357).

Maker The party in a promissory note who is making the promise to pay (p. 361).

Notes payable Obligations in the form of written promissory notes (p. 367).

Notes receivable Claims for which formal instruments of credit are issued as evidence of the debt (p. 362).

Other receivables Nontrade receivables, such as interest receivable, loans to company officers, advances to employees, and income tax refundable (p. 349).

Payee The party to whom payment of a promissory note is to be made (p. 361).

Percentage of receivables basis Management establishes a percentage relationship between the amount of receivables and the expected losses from uncollectible accounts (p. 354).

Percentage of sales basis Management establishes a percentage relationship between the amount of credit sales and expected losses from uncollectible accounts (p. 354).

Promissory note A written promise to pay a specified amount of money on demand or at a definite time (p. 361).

Trade receivables Notes and accounts receivable that result from sales transactions (p. 349).

EXERCISES

Prepare entries for interest-bearing notes.

(SO 2)

12-1 On June 1, Padillio Pasta borrows \$80,000 from First Bank on a six-month, \$80,000, 12 percent note.

Instructions

- Prepare the entry on June 1.
- Prepare the adjusting entry on June 30.
- Prepare the entry at maturity (December 1), assuming monthly adjusting entries have been made through November 30.
- What was the total financing cost (interest expense)?

12-2 In providing accounting services to small businesses, you encounter the following situations pertaining to cash sales:

- Sue Jackson Company rings up sales and sales taxes separately on its cash register. On April 10, the register totals are sales \$30,000 and sales taxes \$2,000.
- Person Company does not segregate sales and sales taxes. Its register total for April 15 is \$28,800, which includes an 8 percent sales tax.

Instructions

Prepare the entry to record the sales transactions and related taxes for each client.

Journalize sales and related taxes.

(SO 3)

12-3 Presented here are two independent situations.

- (a) On January 6, Bennett Catering sells food and services on account to Jackie, Inc., for \$7,000, terms 2/10, n/30. On January 16, Jackie, Inc., pays the amount due. Prepare the entries on Bennett's books to record the sale and related collection.
- (b) On January 10, Erin Bybee uses her Sheridan Co. credit card to purchase kitchen supplies from Sheridan Co. for \$9,000. On February 10, Bybee is billed for the amount due of \$9,000. On February 12, Bybee pays \$6,000 on the balance due. On March 10, Bybee is billed for the amount due, including interest at 2 percent per month on the unpaid balance as of February 12. Prepare the entries on Sheridan Co.'s books related to the transactions that occurred on January 10, February 12, and March 10.

Journalize entries for recognizing accounts receivable.
(SO 2)

12-4 The ledger of Elburn Grill at the end of the current years shows Accounts Receivable \$110,000; Sales \$840,000; and Sales Returns and Allowances \$28,000.

Instructions

- (a) If Elburn uses the direct write-off method to account for uncollectible accounts, journalize the adjusting entry at December 31, assuming Elburn determines that Copp's \$1,400 balance is uncollectible.
- (b) If Allowance for Doubtful Accounts has a credit balance of \$2,100 in the trial balance, journalize the adjusting entry at December 31, assuming bad debts are expected to be (1) 1 percent of net sales and (2) 10 percent of accounts receivable.
- (c) If Allowance for Doubtful Accounts has a debit balance of \$200 in the trail balance, journalize the adjusting entry at December 31, assuming bad debts are expected to be (1) 0.75 percent of net sales and (2) 6 percent of accounts receivable.

Journalize entries to record allowance for doubtful accounts using two different bases.
(SO 3)

12-5 Leland Hotels has accounts receivable of \$98,100 at March 31. An analysis of the accounts shows the following:

| <u>Month of Sale</u> | <u>Balance, March 31</u> |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| March | \$65,000 |
| February | 17,600 |
| January | 8,500 |
| Prior to January | 7,000 |
| | <u>\$98,100</u> |

Determine bad debts expense; prepare the adjusting entry for bad debts expense.
(SO 3)

Credit terms are 2/10, n/30. On March 31, Allowance for Doubtful Accounts has a credit balance of \$1,200 prior to adjustment. The company uses the percentage of receivables basis for estimating uncollectible accounts. The company's estimate of bad debts is as follows:

| <u>Age of Accounts</u> | <u>Estimated Percentage Uncollectible</u> |
|------------------------|---|
| 1-30 days | 2.0% |
| 30-60 days | 5.0% |
| 60-90 days | 30.0% |
| Over 90 days | 50.0% |

Instructions

- (a) Determine the total estimated uncollectibles.
- (b) Prepare the adjusting entry at March 31 to record bad debts expense.

12-6 On December 31, 2008, Crawford Resorts estimated that 1.5 percent of its net sales of \$400,000 would become uncollectible. The company recorded this amount as an addition to Allowance for Doubtful Accounts. On May 11, 2009, Crawford Co. determined that Kevin Hayes's account was uncollectible and wrote off \$1,100. On June 12, 2009, Hayes paid the amount previously written off.

Journalize percentage of sales basis, write-off, recovery.
(SO 3)

Instructions

- (A) Prepare the journal entries on December 31, 2008; May 11, 2009; and June 12, 2009.

12-7 Presented here are two independent situations.

- (a) On March 3, Hinckley Appliances sells \$580,000 of its receivables to Marsh Factors, Inc. Marsh Factors assesses a finance charge of 3 percent of the amount of receivables sold. Prepare the entry on Hinckley Appliances' books to record the sale of the receivables.

Journalize entries for the sale of accounts receivable.
(SO 4)

- (b) On May 10, Cody Company sold merchandise for \$3,800 and accepted the customer's Allstar Bank MasterCard. At the end of the day, the Allstar Bank MasterCard receipts were deposited in the company's bank account. Allstar Bank charges a 4 percent service charge for credit-card sales. Prepare the entry on Cody Company's books to record the sale of merchandise.

Journalize entries for credit-card sales.
(SO 4)

12-8 Presented here are two independent situations.

- (a) On April 2, Julie Keiser uses her KitchenMart Company credit card to purchase kitchen supply from a KitchenMart store for \$1,800. On May 1, Keiser is billed for the \$1,800 amount due. Keiser pays \$700 on the balance due on May 3. On June 1, Keiser receives a bill for the amount due, including interest at 1 percent per month on the unpaid balance as of May 3. Prepare the entries on KitchenMart books related to the transactions that occurred on April 2, May 3, and June 1.
- (b) On July 4, Newark's Restaurant accepts an American Express card for a \$350 dinner bill. American Express charges a 4 percent service fee. On July 10, American Express pays Newark \$336. Prepare the entries on Newark's books related to the transactions.

Journalize entries for notes receivable transactions.
(SO 5, 6)

12-9 Mexico Timeshare, Inc., has the following transactions related to notes receivable during the last two months of 2008:

- Nov. 1 Loaned \$18,000 cash to Norma Hanson on a one-year, 10 percent note.
- Dec. 11 Sold goods to John Countryman, Inc., receiving a \$6,750, ninety-day, 8 percent note.
- 16 Received a \$4,000, six-month, 9 percent note in exchange for Bob Shabo's outstanding accounts receivable.
- 31 Accrued interest revenue on all notes receivable.

Instructions

- (a) Journalize the transactions for Mexico Timeshare, Inc.
- (b) Record the collection of the Hanson note at its maturity in 2009.

Journalize entries for notes receivable.
(SO 5, 6)

12-10 Record the following transactions for Sandwich, Co., in the general journal:

2006

- May 1 Received an \$8,700, one-year, 10 percent note in exchange for Linda Anderson's outstanding accounts receivable.
- Dec. 31 Accrued interest on the Anderson note.
- Dec. 31 Closed the interest revenue account.

2007

- May 1 Received principal plus interest on the Anderson note. (No interest has been accrued in 2009.)

Prepare journal entries related to bad debts expense.
(SO 2, 3, 9)

12-11 At December 31, 2008, Sycamore International Foods reported the following information on its balance sheet:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Accounts receivable | \$1,020,000 |
| Less: Allowance for doubtful accounts | 60,000 |

During 2009, the company had the following transactions related to receivables:

- 1. Sales on account \$2,670,000
- 2. Sales returns and allowances 40,000
- 3. Collections of accounts receivable 2,300,000
- 4. Write-offs of accounts receivable deemed uncollectible 65,000
- 5. Recovery of bad debts previously written off as uncollectible. 20,000

Instructions

- (a) Prepare the journal entries to record each of these five transactions. Assume that no cash discounts were taken on the collections of accounts receivable.
- (b) Enter the January 1, 2009, balances in Accounts Receivable and Allowance for Doubtful Accounts. Post the entries to the two accounts (use T accounts), and determine the balances.
- (c) Prepare the journal entry to record bad debts expense for 2009, assuming that an aging of accounts receivable indicates that estimated bad debts are \$95,000.
- (d) Compute the accounts receivable turnover ratio for the year 2009.

12-12 Brantley Food Supply Co. has the following transactions related to notes receivable during the last two months of the year:

- Nov. 1 Loaned \$15,000 cash to Bayou Bend Restaurant on a one-year, 12 percent note.
 Dec. 11 Sold goods to Walker BBQ receiving a \$8,000, ninety-day, 12 percent note.
 16 Received a \$5,000, 180-day, 10 percent note on account from Jane's Bakery.
 31 Accrued interest revenue on all notes receivable.

Journalize entries for notes receivable transactions.
 (SO 6, 7)

Instructions

Journalize the transactions for Brantley Food Supply Co.

12-13 Record the following transactions for Amy Ice Co. in the general journal:

2008

- May 1 Received a \$12,000, one-year, 10 percent note on account from Rosa's Hamburger.
 Dec. 31 Accrued interest on the note.
 Dec. 31 Closed the interest revenue account.

Journalize entries for notes receivable.
 (SO 7, 8)

2009

- May 1 Received principal plus interest on the note. (No interest has been accrued in 2009.)

12-14 The following is an aging schedule for Griffin Hotel:

Journalize entries to record transactions related to bad debts.
 (SO 2, 3)

| Customer | Total | Not Yet Due | Number of Days Past Due | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | | 1-30 | 31-60 | 61-90 | Over 90 |
| Hovey | \$ 19,800 | | \$ 9,800 | | \$10,000 | |
| Mark | 30,000 | \$30,000 | | | | |
| Osborne | 54,000 | | 12,000 | \$ 5,000 | | \$37,000 |
| Peluso | 21,579 | 17,000 | | | 4,579 | |
| Others | 124,259 | 24,000 | 23,678 | 46,688 | 25,333 | 4,560 |
| | \$249,638 | \$71,000 | \$45,478 | \$51,688 | \$39,912 | \$41,560 |
| Estimated Percentage Uncollectible | | 3% | 8% | 15% | 30% | 65% |
| Total Estimated Bad Debts | \$52,509.04 | \$2,130.00 | \$3,638.24 | \$7,753.20 | \$11,973.60 | \$27,014.00 |

On December 31, 2008, the unadjusted balance in Allowance for Doubtful Accounts is a credit of \$12,000.

Instructions

- (a) Journalize and post the adjusting entry for bad debts at December 31, 2008.
 (b) Journalize and post to the allowance account the following events and transactions in the year 2009.
 (1) On March 31, a \$1,000 customer balance originating in 2004 is judged uncollectible.
 (2) On May 31, a check for \$1,000 is received from the customer whose account was written off as uncollectible on March 31.
 (c) Journalize the adjusting entry for bad debts on December 31, 2009, assuming that the unadjusted balance in Allowance for Doubtful Accounts is a debit of \$800 and that the aging schedule indicates that total estimated bad debts will be \$30,300.

EXPLORING THE WEB

12-15 The Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires any firm that is listed on one of the national exchanges to file annual reports (Form 10-K), financial statements, and quarterly reports (Form 10-Q) with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). This exercise demonstrates how to search and access available SEC filings through the Internet.

Address: <http://biz.yahoo.com/i>

Steps

1. Type in a company's name, or use index to find a company name.
2. Choose **Profile**.
3. Choose **Raw SEC Filings**.

Instructions

Answer the following questions:

- (a) Which SEC filings were available for the company you selected?
- (b) In the company's quarterly report (SEC Form 10-Q), what was one key point discussed in the "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Results of Operations and Financial Condition"?
- (c) What was the net income for the period selected?

ETHICS CASE

12-16 The controller of Shirt Co. believes that the yearly allowance for doubtful accounts for Shirt Co. should be 2 percent of net credit sales. The president of Shirt Co., nervous that the stockholders might expect the company to sustain its 10 percent growth rate, suggests that the controller increase the allowance for doubtful accounts to 4 percent. The president thinks that the lower net income, which reflects a 6 percent growth rate, will be a more sustainable rate for Shirt Co.

Instructions

- (a) Who are the stakeholders in this case?
- (b) Does the president's request pose an ethical dilemma for the controller?
- (c) Should the controller be concerned with Shirt Co.'s growth rate in estimating the allowance? Explain your answer.

FINANCIAL REPORTING PROBLEM: PepsiCo



12-17 PepsiCo's financial information is presented in Appendix A. Based on such information, compute the account receivables turnover and average collection period for receivables of PepsiCo in 2006. What conclusions concerning the management of account receivables can be drawn from these data?



12-18 The financial statements of PepsiCo and the Notes to Consolidated Financial statements appear in Appendix A.

Instructions

Refer to PepsiCo's financial statements, and answer the following questions about current and long-term liabilities:

- (a) What were PepsiCo's total current liabilities at December 30, 2006? What was the increase/decrease in PepsiCo's total current liabilities from the prior year?
- (b) In PepsiCo's Note 2 ("Our Significant Accounting Policies"), the company explains the nature of its contingencies. Under what conditions does PepsiCo recognize (record and report) liabilities for contingencies?
- (c) What were the components of total current liabilities on December 30, 2006?
- (d) What was PepsiCo's total long-term debt (excluding deferred income taxes) at December 30, 2006? What was the increase/decrease in total long-term debt (excluding deferred income taxes) from the prior year? What does Note 9 to the financial statements indicate about the composition of PepsiCo's long-term debt obligation?
- (e) What are the total long-term contractual commitments that PepsiCo reports as of December 30, 2006? (See Note 9.)



Remember to go back to the Navigator box on the chapter-opening page and check off your completed work.