

Types of Bank Accounts

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A bank account is a relationship between you and a bank or other financial institution where you can deposit and withdraw money. In some cases, you may be paid interest on any deposits you have with the bank and may be able to borrow from the bank. The main types of accounts are listed below:



Basic bank account

A basic bank account gives you features needed for everyday life, without a monthly fee.

It's ideal for those who may not qualify for other types of current account.

Current account

A current account grants you access to several different banking services.

This is a common option for most people as it does not have a monthly fee but, provides features and benefits needed to manage your financial needs.

Packaged bank account

A packaged bank account is a current account that comes with extra benefits (in exchange for a monthly fee).

These may include at least one insurance product (i.e. travel or mobile phone insurance) but may also include a range of other non-insurance goods or services (i.e. airport lounge access).

Children's bank account

A children's bank account is usually a current account designed to help your child get used to managing money. They tend to be available for children aged between 11-18 with restrictions to help control and prevent overspending.

To open this account type, a parent or guardian will need to open on the child's behalf (if that child is under 16).

Student account

A student account is like a standard current account but is handy for people who are in higher education with the included features (i.e. interest-free overdraft, railcard and gift vouchers).

Once finishing higher education, this will likely change to a regular current account.

Joint bank account

A joint bank account is when a bank account is shared between two people. This is typically a way to manage joint finances.

Most bank accounts can be a joint account, like savings, current and/or packaged account. It is important to remember that one person cannot exclude the other person from making deposits or withdrawals.

How do you open a bank account?

To open a UK bank account, you will need two documents: proof of identity and proof of address (this applies to opening an account in-branch and online). Proving your identity can include providing documents such as passport, driving license etc. When proving your address, every bank has a list of documents that are accepted as proof. Generally, these include:

- Tenancy agreement/mortgage statement
- Electricity/gas bill (within the last six months)
- Bank or credit statement (within the last three months)
- Current council tax bill

How do you open a bank account without proof of address?

As mentioned, to open a new bank account, providing identification and an alternative address is required. If you are unable to get this information, explain your situation to your financial services provider and see where they can help.

In difficult circumstances, they often accept letters from a refuge, local authority or social worker. There are other options to consider in this instance including:

Offline

Most banks allow you to open a basic bank account, some may allow opening current accounts without the standard verification of residential proof.

Requirements may differ depending on the bank and branch location.

Online banks

Instead of going into a bank, you can open an account online. However, many banks do require you to be physically present.

In addition, you must ensure you have the necessary technology to access their banking app.

NeoBanks

These are digital-only banks that set up a UK account forolut and N26.

How do you deal with a joint bank account?

If you have a joint bank account, you can talk to your bank and/or building society about your choices. If there is any worry regarding money coming out of your account (without permission), you can ask that these actions only occur when all account holders allow this. In a simple term payments, cards and online access will be suspended.

Note: account holders can suspend the joint account and limit access. However, you can check the status of your financial connection to someone by accessing your free online credit report.

What should you do with your bank account when leaving an economically abusive relationship?

There are important steps you can take when coming out of a financially abusive relationship. These are as follows:

1. Cancel joint bank and credit card accounts
2. Change your online passwords so the abuser cannot access any accounts
3. Open a bank account in your own name (advice on this above)
4. Check your credit report for suspicious activity
5. Report it to your local authority

Banks support with Economic Abuse

Many banks are here to support and understand what you're facing, often helping to gain your control back and ensuring their advice is right for you. Below are listed ways you can get in contact if/when you want this support:

Speak to you bank:

- By phone
- By phone
- Find your nearest branch
- By online chat (if available)
- Fill out an online form with contact details (if available)

In an emergency:

Phone the police on **999** if in immediate danger

Surviving Economic Abuse Financial Support Line: **0808 1968845**

24 Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline: **0808 2000 247**

Solace Advice Line: **0808 802 5565**

Other methods for advice:

Reach out to charities whom of which give advice on money and educate you on finances by providing workshops, training, booklets etc. You can find this on: The Money Charity or UK Finance.

Please find more information on our article about 'EconomicAbuse'.

