

## Exponential Growth Functions

You can model *exponential growth* using the following formula:

$$y = C(1 + r)^t$$

initial amount  $\rightarrow$   $C$   $\leftarrow$  time period  $\rightarrow$   $t$   
 $\leftarrow$   $(1 + r)$  is the growth factor  
 $\leftarrow$   $r$  = growth rate

### Rules for Writing and Evaluating an Exponential Growth Function

1. Identify  $C$ , the initial amount. Identify  $r$ , the growth rate. Identify  $t$ , the time.
2. Plug  $C$ ,  $r$ , and  $t$  into the formula for exponential growth.
3. Evaluate the equation; the result is the amount after a certain period of time.

### Example

**A savings account starts with a balance of \$200.00. Interest on the account is 6% each year. What is the balance after 10 years?**

- Step 1** Identify  $C$ , the initial amount.  $C$ , the initial amount is \$200.00  
Identify  $r$ , the growth rate.  $r$ , the growth rate or 6% or 0.06.  
Identify  $t$ , the time period.  $t$ , the time period is 10 years.
- Step 2** Plug  $C$ ,  $r$ , and  $t$  into the formula for exponential growth.  $y = 200(1 + 0.06)^{10}$
- Step 3** Evaluate the equation; the result is the amount after a certain period of time.  $y = 200(1 + 0.06)^{10} = 200(1.06)^{10}$   
 $y = 200(1.79) = \$358$

### Practice

**Solve.**

1. A savings account starts with a balance of \$500.00. Interest on the account is 10% each year. What is the balance after 5 years?

Identify  $C$ , the initial amount.  
Identify  $r$ , the growth rate.  
Identify  $t$ , the time period.

$C$ , the initial amount is \_\_\_\_\_.

$r$ , the growth rate, is 10% or \_\_\_\_\_.

$t$ , the time period is \_\_\_\_\_ years.

Plug  $C$ ,  $r$ , and  $t$  into the formula for exponential growth.

$y = \_\_\_\_\_ (1 + \_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_$

Evaluate the equation; the result is the amount after a certain period of time.

$y = \_\_\_\_\_ (1 + \_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_$

$y = \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_) = \_\_\_\_\_$

2. A population of bacteria has a growth rate of 2% per hour. You start with 50 bacteria.

How many bacteria are there after 20 hours? \_\_\_\_\_

3. An organism's weight increases at a growth rate of 5% each day. If the initial weight is

0.75 grams, what is the weight after 14 days? \_\_\_\_\_

## Exponential Decay Functions

You can model *exponential decay* using the following formula:

$$y = C(1-r)^t$$

← time period  
← (1 - r) is the decay factor  
← r = decay rate

initial amount

### Rules for Writing and Evaluating an Exponential Decay Function

1. Identify  $C$ , the initial amount. Identify  $r$ , the growth rate. Identify  $t$ , the time.
2. Plug  $C$ ,  $r$ , and  $t$  into the formula for exponential decay.
3. Evaluate the equation; the result is the amount after a certain period of time.

### Example

**A car was bought for \$15,000.00. The value of the car decreases in value by 10% each year. What is the value of the car after 5 years?**

- Step 1** Identify  $C$ , the initial amount.  $C$ , the initial amount, is \$15,000.00.  
 Identify  $r$ , the decay rate.  $r$ , the decay rate, is 10% or 0.10.  
 Identify  $t$ , the time period.  $t$ , the time period, is 5 years.

- Step 2** Plug  $C$ ,  $r$ , and  $t$  into the formula for exponential decay.  $y = 15,000(1 - 0.10)^5$

- Step 3** Evaluate the equation; the result is the amount after a certain period of time.  $y = 15,000(1 - 0.10)^5$   
 $= 15,000(0.90)^5 = 8,857.35$

### Practice

1. A copy machine is bought for \$2,000. The value of the copier decreases at a rate of 25% each year. What is the value of the copier after 4 years?

Identify  $C$ , the initial amount.  $C$ , the initial amount is \_\_\_\_\_  
 Identify  $r$ , the decay rate.  $r$ , the decay rate, is 25% or \_\_\_\_\_  
 Identify  $t$ , the time period.  $t$ , the time period, is \_\_\_\_\_ years.

Plug  $C$ ,  $r$ , and  $t$  into the formula for exponential decay.  $y = \text{_____}(1 - \text{_____})\text{---}$

Evaluate the equation; the result is the amount after a certain period of time.  $y = \text{_____}(1 - \text{_____})\text{---}$   
 $= \text{_____} = \text{_____}$

2. A business has a profit of \$50,000. Profits decrease by 2.5% each year. What is the profit in the 10th year? \_\_\_\_\_

3. A truck is bought for \$25,000. The value of the truck decreases at a rate of 10.5% per year. What is the value of the truck after 3 years?, 6 years?, 12 years? \_\_\_\_\_