

The General Journal and the General Ledger

Section 1: The General Journal

Section Objectives

- 1. Record transactions in the general journal.
- 2. Prepare compound journal entries.

The Accounting Cycle

Step 1
Analyze
transactions

Step 2
Journalize the data about transactions

Step 3
Post the data about transactions

Step 4
Prepare
a
worksheet

Step 9
Interpret
the financial
information

Step 8
Prepare a
postclosing
trial balance

Step 7
Record
closing
entries

Prepare financial statements

Step 5

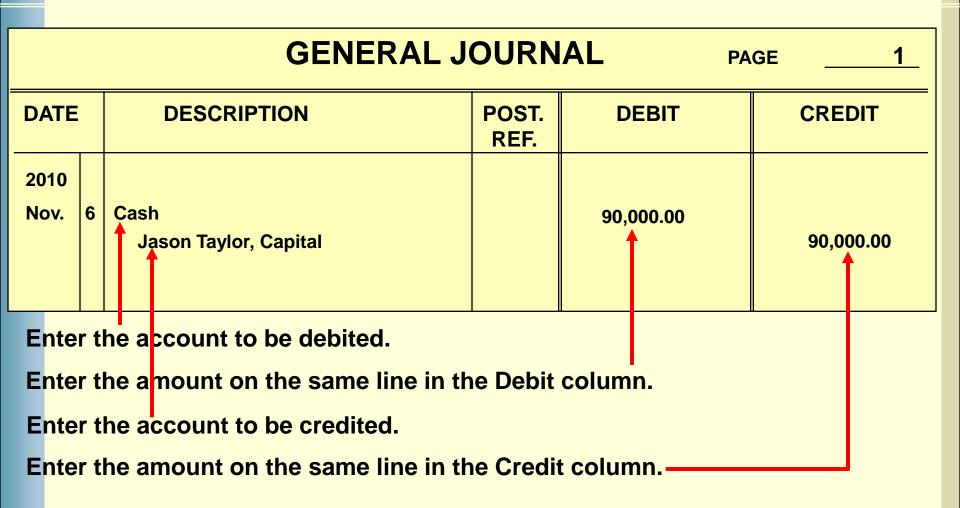
Step 6
Record
adjusting
entries

Objective 1

Record transactions in the general journal

Journal

- A journal is a diary of business activities.
- There are different types of journals.
- Transactions are entered in the journal in chronological order.



	GENERAL JOURNAL PAGE1_				
DATE		DESCRIPTION	POST. REF.	DEBIT	CREDIT
2010 Nov.	6	Cash Jason Taylor, Capital Investment by owner, Memo 01		90,000.00	90,000.00

Then enter a complete but corcise description of the transaction.

Whenever possible, the journal entry should refer to the source of the information.

Document numbers are part of the audit trail.

Recording a Business Transaction

- 1. Analyze the financial event.
 - Identify the accounts affected.
 - Classify the accounts affected.
 - Determine the amount of increase or decrease for each account affected.
- 2. Apply the rules of debit and credit.
 - a. Which account is debited? For what amount?
 - b. Which account is credited? For what amount?
- 3. Make the entry in T-account form.
- 4. Record the complete entry in general journal form.

Cash Investment by Owner

On November 6 Jason Taylor withdrew \$90,000 from personal savings and deposited it in a new business checking account for JT's Consulting Services.

GENERAL JOURNAL PAGE 1					
DATE		DESCRIPTION	POST. REF.	DEBIT	CREDIT
2010 Nov.	6	Cash Jason Taylor, Capital (Investment by owner)		90,000.00	90,000.00

Cash Purchase of Equipment

On November 7 JT's Consulting Services issued Check 1001 for \$10,000 to purchase a computer and other equipment.

	GENERAL JOURNAL PAGE 1				
DATE		DESCRIPTION	POST. REF.	DEBIT	CREDIT
Nov.	7	Equipment Cash (Purchased equip., Check 1001)		10,000.00	10,000.00

Credit Purchase of Equipment

On November 10, JT's Consulting Services purchased office equipment on account for \$12,000.

	GENERAL JOURNAL PAGE 1				
DATE		DESCRIPTION	POST. REF.	DEBIT	CREDIT
Nov.	10	Equipment Accounts Payable Purchased equipment on account from Office Plus, Inv. 2223, due in 60 days		12,000.00	12,000.00

Cash Purchase of Supplies

On November 28, JT's Consulting Services purchased supplies for \$3,000, Check 1002.

	GENERAL JOURNAL PAGE 1				
DATE		DESCRIPTION	POST. REF.	DEBIT	CREDIT
Nov.	28	Supplies Cash (Purchased supplies, Ck. 1002)		3,000.00	3,000.00

Payment to a Creditor

On November 30 JT's Consulting Services paid Office Plus \$5,000 in partial payment of Invoice 2223, Check 1003.

	GENERAL JOURNAL PAGE 1				
DATE		DESCRIPTION	POST. REF.	DEBIT	CREDIT
Nov.	30	Accounts Payable Cash Paid on account, Office Plus, Invoice 2223, Check 1003		5,000.00	5,000.00

Recording Prepaid Rent

On November 30, JT's Consulting Services wrote Check 1004 for \$7,000 to prepay rent for December and January.

	GENERAL JOURNAL PAGE 1				
DATE	DESCRIPTION	POST. REF.	DEBIT	CREDIT	
Nov.	Prepaid Rent Cash Paid Dec. and Jan. rent in advance; Check 1004		7,000.00	7,000.00	

Services performed for cash.

JT's Consulting performed services for \$26,000 in cash.

	GENERAL JOURNAL PAGE2					
DATE	DESCRIPTION	POST. REF.	DEBIT	CREDIT		
2010 Dec. 3	Cash Fees Income Performed services for cash		26,000.00	26,000.00		

Performed services on account.

JT's Consulting performed services on account for \$9,000.

GENERAL JOURNAL PAGE2					
DATE	DESCRIPTION	POST. REF.	DEBIT	CREDIT	
Dec. 31	Accounts Receivable Fees Income Performed services on credit		9,000.00	9,000.00	

Received Cash From Credit Clients

Received \$4,000 in cash from a credit client on account.

GENERAL JOURNAL PAGE2				
DATE	DESCRIPTION	POST. REF.	DEBIT	CREDIT
Dec. 31	Cash Accounts Receivable Received cash from credit clients on account		4,000.00	4,000.00

Paid Salaries

Paid \$7,000 for salaries.

GENERAL JOURNAL PAGE2					
DATE	DESCRIPTION	POST. REF.	DEBIT	CREDIT	
Dec. 31	Salaries Expense Cash Paid monthly salaries to employees, Check 1005-1006		7,000.00	7,000.00	

Paid Utility Bill

JT's consulting paid \$500 in cash for a utility bill.

GENERAL JOURNAL PAGE2					
DATE	DESCRIPTION	POST. REF.	DEBIT	CREDIT	
Dec. 31	Utilities Expense Cash Paid monthly bill for utilities, Check 1007		500.00	500.00	

Owner's Withdrawal

The owner, Jason Taylor, withdrew \$4,000 from the company.

	GENERAL JOURNAL PAGE2								
DATE	DESCRIPTION	POST. REF.	DEBIT	CREDIT					
Dec. 31	Jason Taylor, Drawing Cash Owner withdrew cash for personal expenses, Check 1008		4,000.00	4,000.00					

The General Journal and the General Ledger

Section 2: The General Ledger

Section Objectives

- 3. Post journal entries to general ledger accounts.
- Correct errors made in the journal or ledger.

Ledgers

- The ledger contains a separate form for each account.
- The third step of the accounting cycle is posting to the ledger.

QUESTION:

What is posting?

ANSWER:

Posting is the process of transferring data from a journal to a ledger.

The Accounting Cycle

Step 2 Step 3 Journalize the Post the data about data about Step 4 Step 1 **Prepare** transactions transactions **Analyze** transactions worksheet Step 5 **Prepare** financial statements Step 9 Step 6 **Interpret** Record Step 7 the financial adjusting Step 8 Record information entries Prepare a closing postclosing entries trial balance

Ledger Account Forms

On the ledger account form shown below, notice the:

- Account name and number
- Columns for date, description, and posting reference
- Columns for debit, credit, debit balance, and credit balance

ACCO	UNT (_	ACCOUNT N	NO. 101		
DATE	DESCRIPTION	POST. REF.	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANO DEBIT	CREDIT
2010						
Nov. 6		J1	90,000.00		90,000.00	

Objective 3 Post journal entries to general ledger accounts

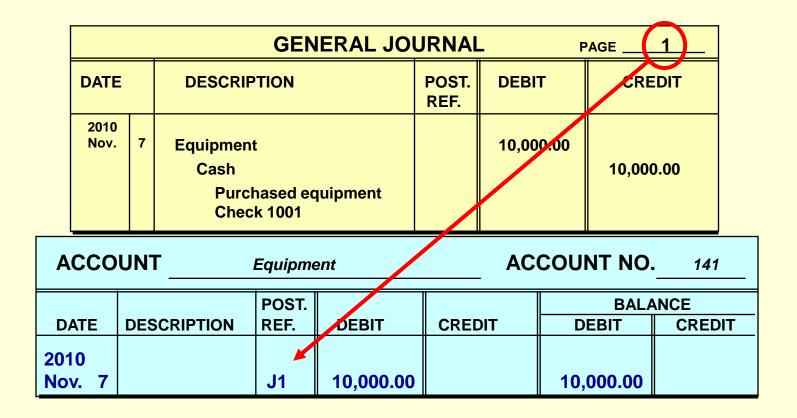
Five Steps for Posting

- 1. On the ledger form, enter the date of the transaction. Enter a description of the entry, if necessary. Usually, routine entries do not require descriptions.
- 2. On the ledger form, enter the general journal page in the Posting Reference column.
- 3. On the ledger form, enter the debit amount in the Debit column or the credit amount in the Credit column.
- 4. On the ledger form, compute the balance and enter it in the Debit Balance column or the Credit Balance column.
- 5. On the general journal, enter the ledger account number in the Posting Reference column.

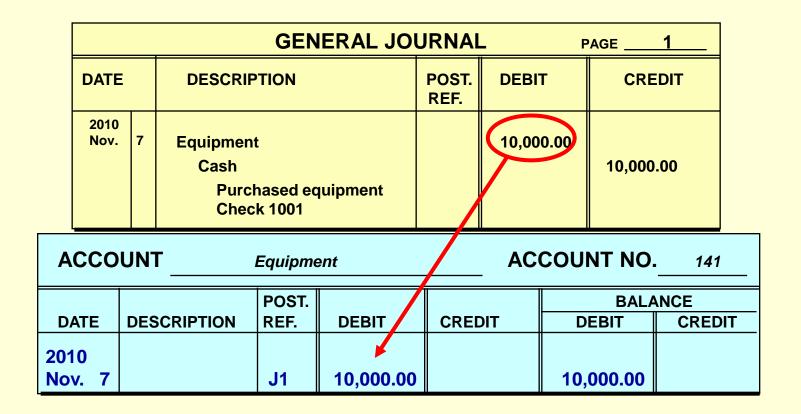
Step 1: On the ledger form, enter the date of the transaction. Enter a description of the entry, if necessary. Usually, routine entries do not require descriptions.

	GENERAL JOURNAL PAGE 1									
	DATE	DESCRIF	TION		POST. REF.	DEBIT		CRE	DIT	
	2010 Nov.	7 Equipmen Cash Purc		quipment		10,000.00		10,000.00		
A	cco	UNT	Equipme	ent		AC	COU	NT NO.	141	
D	TE	DESCRIPTION	POST. REF.	DEBIT	CRED	DIT D		BALANCE DEBIT CI		IT
201 No			J1	10,000.00			10,	00.00		

Step 2: On the ledger form, enter the general journal page in the Posting Reference column. The letter J refers to the general journal.



Step 3: On the ledger form, enter the debit amount in the Debit column or the credit amount in the Credit column.



Step 4: On the ledger form, compute the balance and enter it in the Debit Balance column or the Credit Balance column.

	GENERAL JOURNAL PAGE 1								
DATE		DESCRIPTION	POST. REF.	DEBIT	CREDIT				
2010 Nov.	7	Equipment Cash Purchased equipment Check 1001		10,000.00	10,000.00				

ACCOUNT Equipment				ACCOUNT NO. 141				
DATE	DESCRIPTION	POST. REF.	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALA DEBIT	NCE CREDIT		
2010 Nov. 7		J1	10,000.00		10,000.00			

Step 5: On the general journal, enter the ledger account number in the Posting Reference column.

	GENERAL JOURNAL PAGE 1											
	DATE			DESCRIPTION		DESCRIPTION		POST. DEBIT REF.		IT CREDIT		
	2010 Nov.		7			Juipment	141	10,000	0.00	10,000.00		
Α	CCO	UN	١T	•	Equipme	ent		AC	COU	NT NO.	141	
D/	DATE DESCRIPTION REF. DEBIT		DEBIT	CREDIT DEBIT		NCE CRED	DIT					
201 Nov					J1	10,000.00			10,	00.00		

General Ledger Accounts

In the general ledger accounts, the balance sheet accounts appear first and are followed by the income statement accounts. The order is:

- Assets
- Liabilities
- Owner's equity
- Revenue
- Expenses

This order of accounts speeds the preparation of the trial balance and the financial statements.

Objective 4 Correct errors made in the journal or ledger

Journal and Ledger Errors

Sometimes errors are made when recording transactions in the journal.

The method used to correct an error depends on whether or not the journal entry has been posted to the ledger.

Correcting Journal and Ledger Errors

- If an error is discovered before the entry is posted, neatly cross out the incorrect item and write the correct data above it.
- To ensure honesty and provide a clear audit trail, erasures are not made in the journal.

Before Posting

On September 1 an automobile repair shop purchased some shop equipment for \$9,000 in cash.

By mistake the journal entry debited the Office Equipment account rather than the Shop Equipment account.

Before Posting

	GENERAL JOURNAL PAGE1								
DATE	DESCRIPTION	POST. REF.	DEBIT	CREDIT					
2010 Sept.	Shop Equipment Office Equipment Cash Purchased equipment Check 2141		9,000.00	9,000.00					

- The accountant would neatly cross out Office Equipment and write Shop Equipment above it.
- The correct account Shop Equipment would be posted to the ledger in the usual manner.

Correcting Journal and Ledger Errors

- If the error is discovered after posting, a correcting entry – a journal entry made to correct the erroneous entry – is journalized and posted.
- Do not erase or change the journal entry or the postings in the ledger accounts.
- Note that erasures are never permitted in the journal or ledger.

After Posting

On September 1 an automobile repair shop debited Office Equipment rather than Shop Equipment for \$9,000 by mistake.

The debit was posted to the *Office Equipment* account in the general ledger.

A correcting journal entry must be journalized and posted.

After Posting

	GENERAL JOURNAL PAGE 1								
DATE		DESCRIPTION	POST. DEBIT REF.		CREDIT				
2010 Sept.	1	Office Equipment Cash Purchased equipment Check 2141	141 101	9,000.00	9,000.00				

This erroneous journal entry was posted to the general ledger.

After Posting

	GENERAL JOURNAL PAGE1								
DATE		DESCRIPTION POST. REF.		DEBIT	CREDIT				
2010 Oct.	1	Shop Equipment Office Equipment To correct error made on Sept. 1 when a purchase of shop equipment was recorded as office equipment	151 141	9,000.00	9,000.00				

- The correcting journal entry debits Shop Equipment and credits *Office Equipment* for \$9,000.
- The entry transfers \$9,000 out of the *Office*Equipment and into the Shop Equipment account.

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