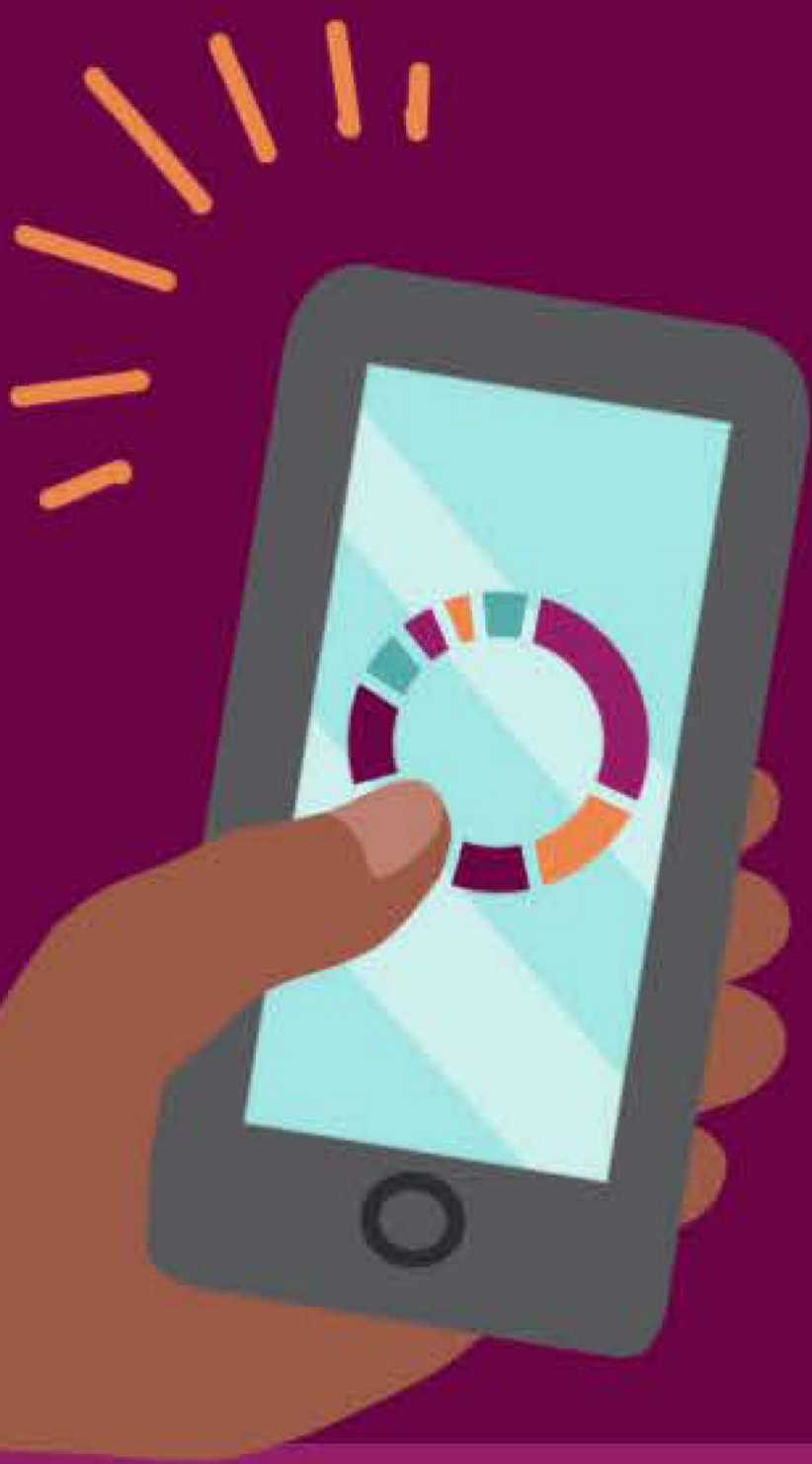


The Importance of Credit

A credit score is like a grade that shows how good you are at managing money. **It ranges from 300 to 850.** The higher your score, the better chance you have in getting approved for loans and getting better interest rates - **it's like your financial report card!**

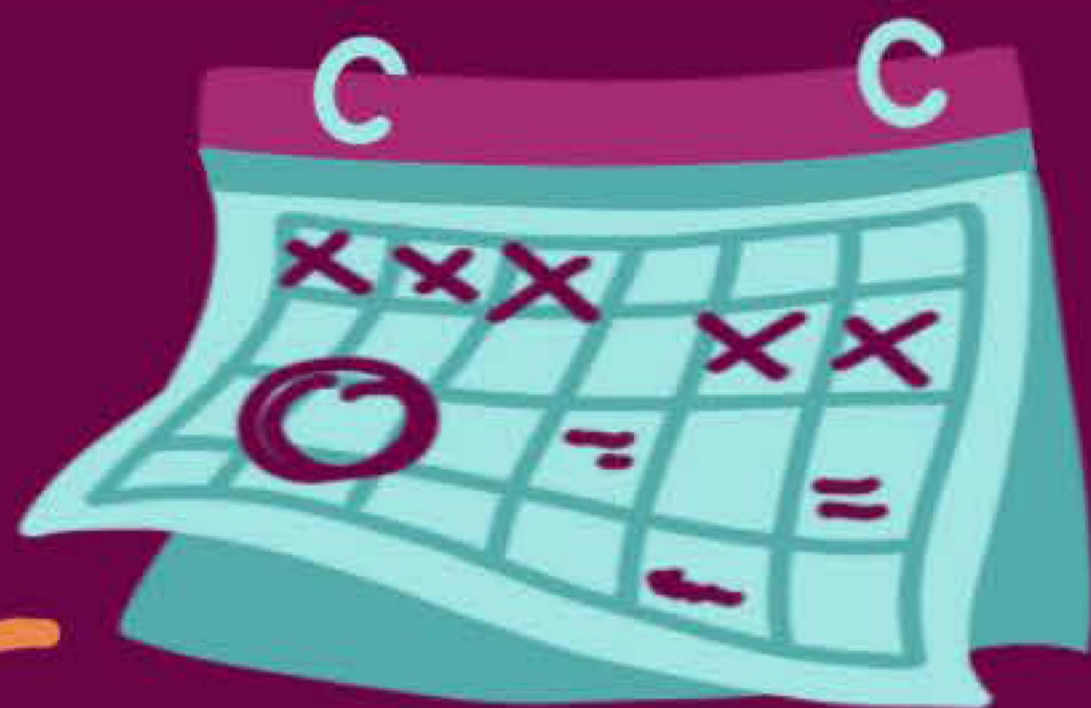


Your credit score is determined by things like your **history with money**, how much you owe, and if you **pay back** what you owe on time.

Education, cars emergencies, etc. can be too expensive to pay all at once. But, with a good credit score, you can **use loans to spread the cost over time.**

Ways to Boost Credit

Always pay your bills **on time.**



Use your credit card regularly and be sure to **pay the balance in full** every month.



Check for **errors** on your bill each month – a **fraudulent charge** on your card could lead to an **account overdraft, potentially bringing down your credit score.**



Ways to Build Credit



Make **on-time payments** on existing loans, including credit cards.

Open a **secured credit card** - like a credit card with training wheels, your cash deposit determines your credit limit, and it will **help build credit when used responsibly**.



Check your credit report at least once a year to spot any **fraudulent account openings**.



Consider becoming an **authorized user on a family member's credit card**. This can help **boost your credit score** by adding their card payment history to yours, helping your score grow over time!



30%

Keep your credit card spending **under 30% of your available credit** (that's the total amount you can use).