### Definition of the Week

**Debit Cards:** Cards allowing bank customers immediate electronic access to money in their checking account.

### Balancing Your Checkbook

#### Transaction Register

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Check No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Transaction Description</th>
<th>Withdrawal/Subtract</th>
<th>Deposit/Addition</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Keep track of the money in your checking account with a transaction register. Use the above register to compute your balance for the following transactions:

- **Dec. 1** You have a $120.56 balance in your bank account
- **Dec. 2** Purchased a CD at Jones Music Store with your debit card; total cost: $18.27
- **Dec. 2** Withdrew $25 cash from an ATM
- **Dec. 3** Received $40 for your birthday and put it in your account
- **Dec. 4** Purchased a dog leash at Spot’s Place; total cost: $14.98
- **Dec. 5** Withdrew $25 cash from an ATM
- **Dec. 6** Purchased a CD at Jones Music Store with your debit card; total cost: $18.27
- **Dec. 8** Earned $15 helping your neighbor clean house and put it in your account

**Is your ending balance $47.74?**

*(Note: Sometimes there are fees for using your card or writing a check; be sure to subtract out any fees your bank charges for these services.)*

### Parent Option

Assist your child’s teacher in arranging a class tour of a local bank. Take your child to the bank to meet your banker and investigate the different kinds of checking accounts they offer. Discuss the importance of tracking all account activities. Be sure to talk about “overdraft” fees and other consequences of writing checks without having enough money in the bank to cover them.

Allow your child to help you record transactions and balance your family’s checking account. Help your child set up a modified register to track their spending and “income” for one month.