

3 Adjusting the Accounts

Learning Objectives

After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

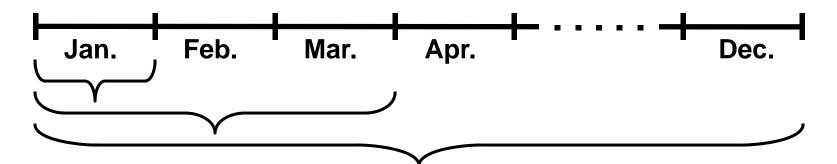
- [1] Explain the time period assumption.
- [2] Explain the accrual basis of accounting.
- [3] Explain the reasons for adjusting entries and Identify the major types of adjusting entries.
- [4] Prepare adjusting entries for deferrals.
- [5] Prepare adjusting entries for accruals.
- [6] Describe the nature and purpose of an adjusted trial balance.

Preview of Chapter 3

ADJUSTING THE ACCOUNTS The Adjusted Trial Balance and The Basics of Adjusting Entries **Timing Issues Financial Statements** • Types of adjusting entries • Preparing the adjusted trial Fiscal and calendar years balance Accrual- vs. cash-basis accounting Adjusting entries for deferrals Preparing financial statements · Recognizing revenues and Adjusting entries for accruals Summary of basic relationships expenses

Accounting Principles
Eleventh Edition
Weygandt • Kimmel • Kieso

Accountants divide the economic life of a business into artificial time periods (**Time Period Assumption**).



Generally a

- month,
- quarter, or
- year.

Alternative Terminology

The time period assumption is also called the *periodicity assumption*.

LO 1 Explain the time period assumption.

Fiscal and Calendar Years

- Monthly and quarterly time periods are called interim periods.
- Public companies must prepare both quarterly and annual financial statements.
- Fiscal Year = Accounting time period that is one year in length.
- Calendar Year = January 1 to December 31.

Review Question

The time period assumption states that:

- a. revenue should be recognized in the accounting period in which it is earned.
- b. expenses should be matched with revenues.
- c. the economic life of a business can be divided into artificial time periods.
 - d. the fiscal year should correspond with the calendar year.

Accrual- versus Cash-Basis Accounting

Accrual-Basis Accounting

- Transactions recorded in the periods in which the events occur.
- Companies recognize revenues when they perform services (rather than when cash is received).
- Expenses are recognized when incurred (rather than when paid).

Accrual- vs. Cash-Basis Accounting

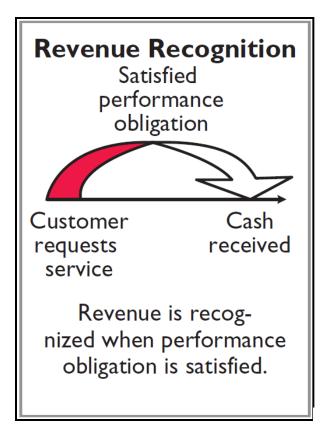
Cash-Basis Accounting

- Revenues recognized when cash is received.
- Expenses recognized when cash is paid.
- Cash-basis accounting is not in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

Recognizing Revenues and Expenses

REVENUE RECOGNITION PRINCIPLE

Recognize revenue in the accounting period in which the performance obligation is satisfied.

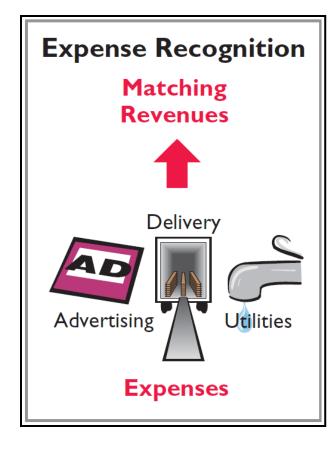


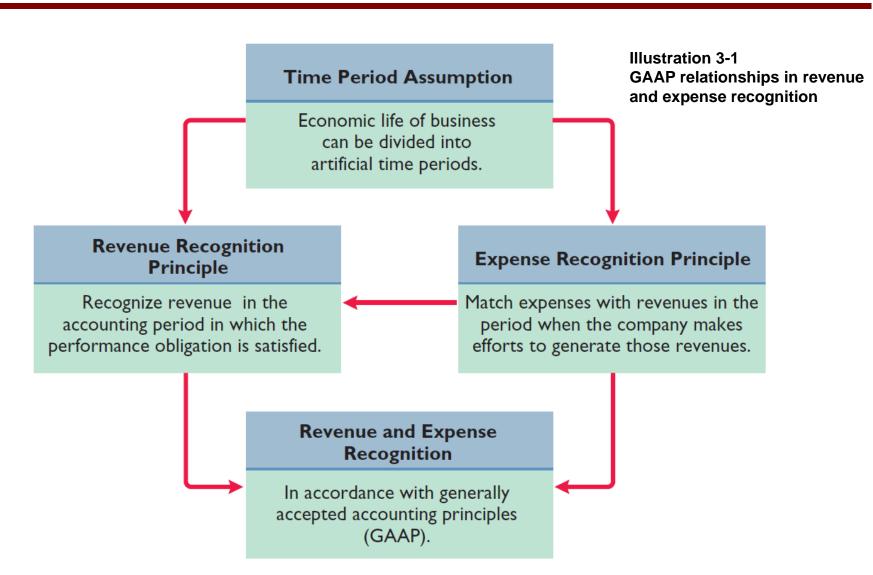
Recognizing Revenues and Expenses

EXPENSE RECOGNITION PRINCIPLE

Match expenses with revenues in the period when the expense makes its contribution to revenue.

"Let the expenses follow the revenues."





3-11 LO 2

Review Question

One of the following statements about the accrual basis of accounting is *false?* That statement is:

- Events that change a company's financial statements are recorded in the periods in which the events occur.
- b. Revenue is recognized in the period in which the performance obligation is satisfied.
- The accrual basis of accounting is in accord with generally accepted accounting principles.
- d. Revenue is recorded only when cash is received, and expenses are recorded only when cash is paid.

ETHICS INSIGHT



Cooking the Books?

Allegations of abuse of the revenue recognition principle have become all too common in recent years. For example, it was alleged that Krispy Kreme sometimes doubled the number of doughnuts shipped to wholesale customers at the end of a quarter to boost quarterly results. The customers shipped the unsold doughnuts back after the beginning of the next quarter for a refund. Conversely, Computer Associates International was accused of backdating sales—that is, saying that a sale that occurred at the beginning of one quarter occurred at the end of the previous quarter in order to achieve the previous quarter's sales targets.



What motivates sales executives and finance and accounting executives to participate in activities that result in inaccurate reporting of revenues?

DO IT!

A list of concepts is provided in the left column below, with a description of the concept in the right column below. There are more descriptions provided than concepts. Match the description of the concept to the concept.

- 1. <u>f</u> Accrual-basis accounting.
- 2. e Calendar year.
- 3. **c** Time period assumption.
- 4. **b** Expense recognition principle.

- (a) Monthly and quarterly time periods.
- (b) Efforts (expenses) should be matched with results (revenues).
- (c) Accountants divide the economic life of a business into artificial time periods.
- (d) Companies record revenues when they receive cash and record expenses when they pay out cash.
- (e) An accounting time period that starts on January 1 and ends on December 31.
- (f) Companies record transactions in the period in which the events occur.

3-14 LO 2

Adjusting Entries

- Ensure that the revenue recognition and expense recognition principles are followed.
- Necessary because the trial balance may not contain up-to-date and complete data.
- Required every time a company prepares financial statements.
- Will include one income statement account and one balance sheet account.

Review Question

Adjusting entries are made to ensure that:

- a. expenses are recognized in the period in which they are incurred.
- b. revenues are recorded in the period in which services are performed.
- balance sheet and income statement accounts have correct balances at the end of an accounting period.
- d. all of the above.

Types of Adjusting Entries

Illustration 3-2
Categories of adjusting entries

Prepaid Expenses. Expenses paid in cash before they are used or consumed. Unearned Revenues. Cash received before services are performed. Accrued Revenues. Revenues for services performed but not yet received in cash or recorded. Accrued Expenses. Expenses incurred but not yet paid in cash or recorded.

Types of Adjusting Entries

Trial Balance -

Each account is analyzed to determine whether it is complete and up-to-date.

PIONEER ADVERTISING AGENCY Trial Balance October 31, 2014				
	Debit	Credit		
Cash	\$ 15,200	 		
Supplies	2,500			
Prepaid Insurance	600			
Equipment	5,000			
Notes Payable		\$ 5,000		
Accounts Payable		2,500		
Unearned Service Revenue		1,200		
Owner's Capital		10,000		
Owner's Drawings	500			
Service Revenue		10,000		
Salaries and Wages Expense	4,000			
Rent Expense	900			
	\$28,700	\$28,700		

Illustration 3-3

LO 3 Explain the reasons for adjusting entries and Identify the major types of adjusting entries.

Adjusting Entries for Deferrals

Deferrals are **expenses or revenues** that are recognized at a date later than the point when cash was originally exchanged. There are **two types**:

- Prepaid expenses and
- Unearned revenues.

PREPAID EXPENSES

Payment of cash, that is recorded as an asset because service or benefit will be received in the future.

Cash Payment

BEFORE

Expense Recorded

Prepayments often occur in regard to:

insurance

rent

supplies

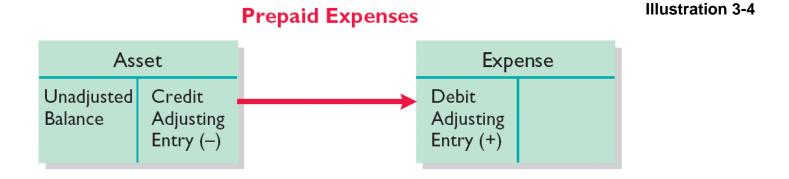
equipment

advertising

buildings

PREPAID EXPENSES

- Expire either with the passage of time or through use.
- Adjusting entry:
 - Increase (debit) to an expense account and
 - Decrease (credit) to an asset account.

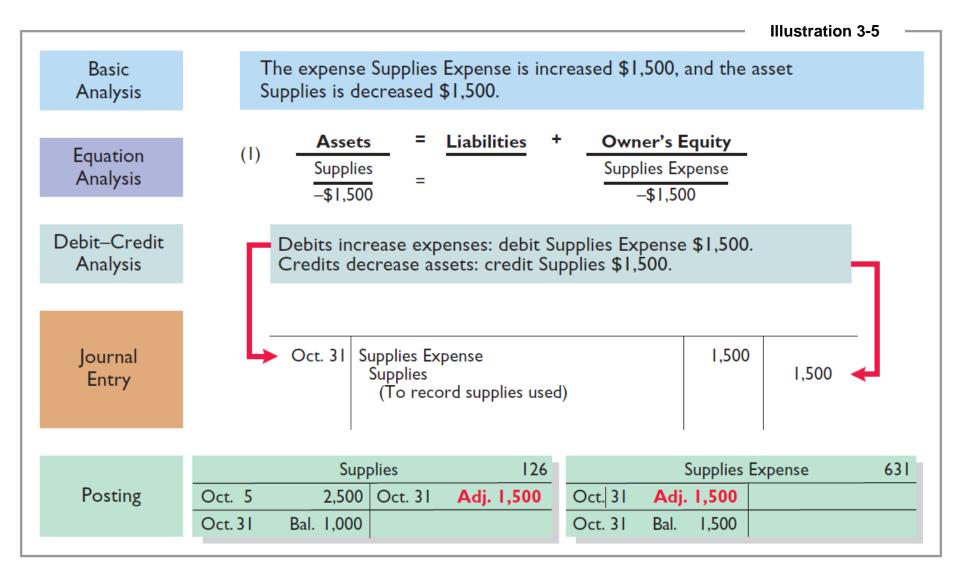


LO 4 Prepare adjusting entries for deferrals.

Illustration: Pioneer Advertising Agency purchased supplies costing \$2,500 on October 5. Pioneer recorded the payment by increasing (debiting) the asset Supplies. This account shows a balance of \$2,500 in the October 31 trial balance. An inventory count at the close of business on October 31 reveals that \$1,000 of supplies are still on hand.



Oct. 31 Supplies expense 1,500
Supplies 1,500

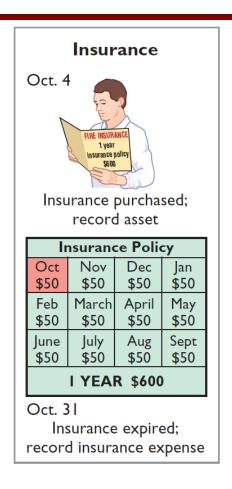


3-23 LO 4

Illustration: On October 4, Pioneer Advertising Agency paid \$600 for a one-year fire insurance policy. Coverage began on October 1. Pioneer recorded the payment by increasing (debiting) Prepaid Insurance. This account shows a balance of \$600 in the October 31 trial balance. Insurance of \$50 (\$600 ÷ 12) expires each month.

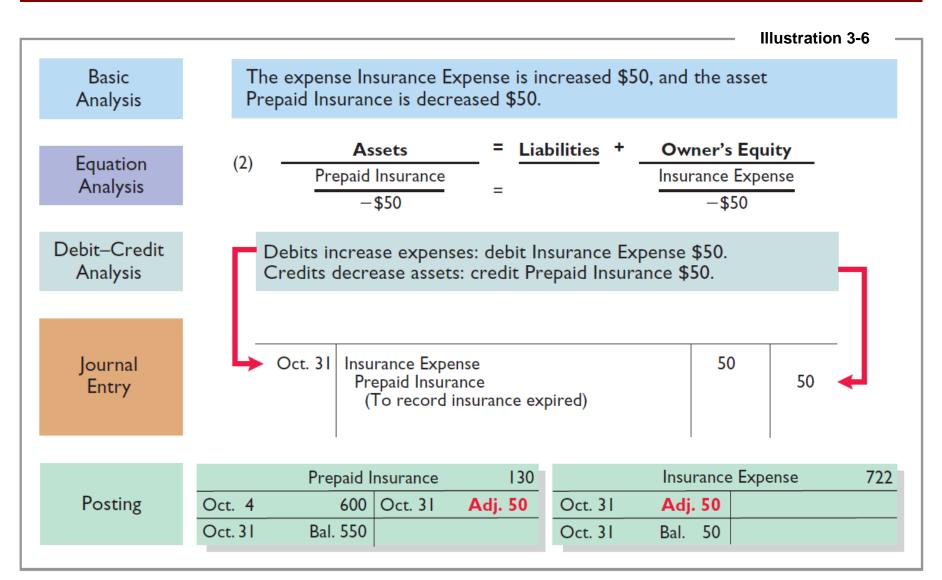
Oct. 31 Insurance expense 50

Prepaid insurance



LO 4 Prepare adjusting entries for deferrals.

50



3-25 LO 4

Depreciation

- Buildings, equipment, and motor vehicles (assets that provide service for many years) are recorded as assets, rather than an expense, in the year acquired.
- Depreciation is the process of allocating the cost of an asset to expense over its useful life.
- Depreciation does not attempt to report the actual change in the value of the asset.

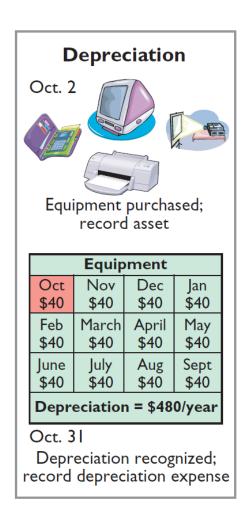
Illustration: For Pioneer Advertising, assume that depreciation on the equipment is \$480 a year, or \$40 per month.

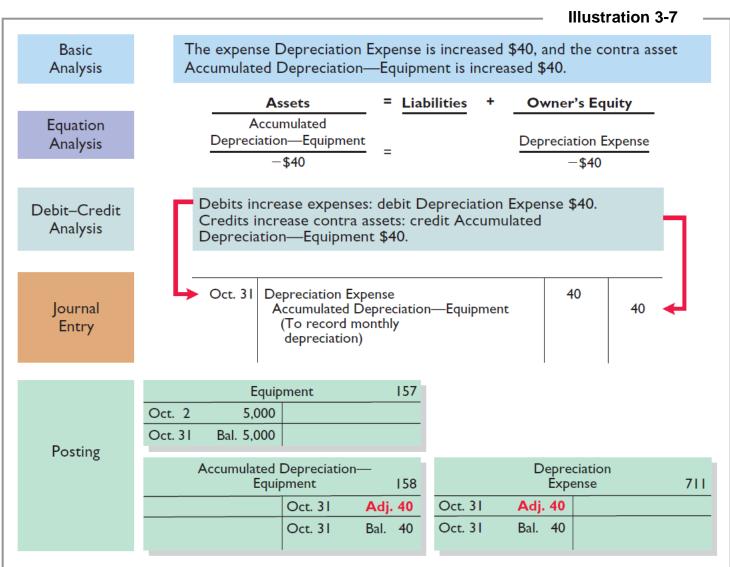
Oct. 31

Depreciation expense 40

Accumulated depreciation 40

Accumulated Depreciation is called a contra asset account.





3-28 LO 4

Statement Presentation

- Accumulated Depreciation is a contra asset account (credit).
- Appears just after the account it offsets (Equipment) on the balance sheet.
- ◆ Book value is the difference between the cost of any depreciable asset and its accumulated depreciation.

Illustration 3-8

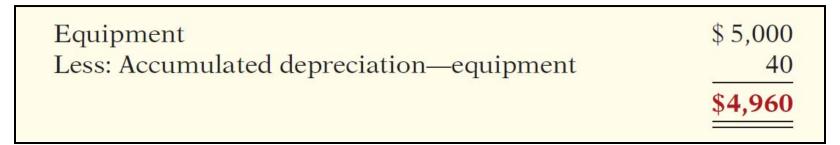


Illustration 3-9

ACCOUNTING FOR PREPAID EXPENSES				
Examples	Reason for Adjustment	Accounts Before Adjustment	Adjusting Entry	
Insurance, supplies, advertising, rent, depreciation	Prepaid expenses recorded in asset accounts have been used.	Assets overstated. Expenses understated.	Dr. Expenses Cr. Assets or Contra Assets	

UNEARNED REVENUES

Receipt of cash that is recorded as a liability because the service has not been performed.

Cash Receipt

BEFORE

Revenue Recorded

Unearned revenues often occur in regard to:

Rent

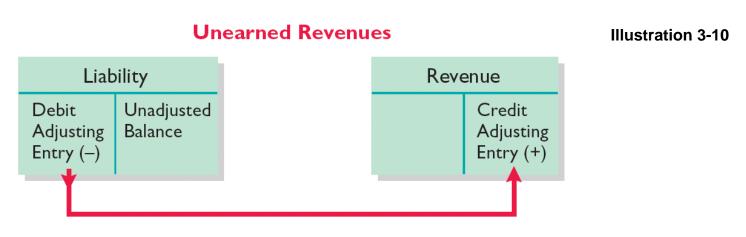
Magazine subscriptions

Airline tickets

Customer deposits

UNEARNED REVENUES

- Adjusting entry is made to record the revenue for services performed during the period and to show the liability that remains at the end of the period.
- Results in a decrease (debit) to a liability account and an increase (credit) to a revenue account.

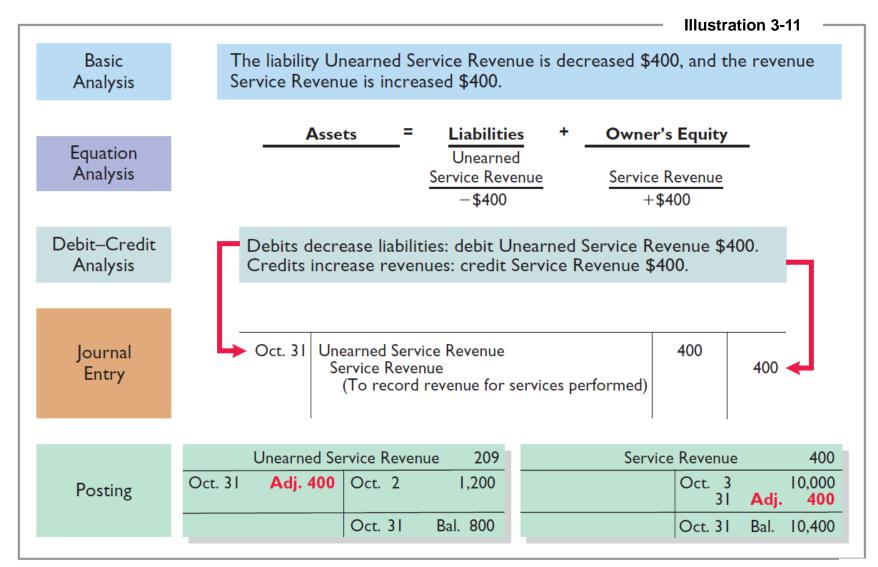


LO 4

Illustration: Pioneer Advertising Agency received \$1,200 on October 2 from R. Knox for advertising services expected to be completed by December 31. Unearned Service Revenue shows a balance of \$1,200 in the October 31 trial balance. Analysis reveals that the company performed \$400 of services in October.

Oct. 31 Unearned service revenue 400

Service revenue 400



3-34 LO 4

Illustration 3-12

ACCOUNTING FOR UNEARNED REVENUES				
Examples	Reason for Adjustment	Accounts Before Adjustment	Adjusting Entry	
Rent, magazine subscriptions, customer deposits for future service	Unearned revenues recorded in liability accounts are now recognized as revenue for services performed.	Liabilities overstated. Revenues understated.	Dr. Liabilities Cr. Revenues	

ACCOUNTING ACROSS THE ORGANIZATION



Turning Gift Cards into Revenue

Those of you who are marketing majors (and even most of you who are not) know that gift cards are among the hottest marketing tools in merchandising today. Customers purchase gift cards and give them to someone for later use. In a recent year, gift-card sales topped \$95 billion.

Although these programs are popular with marketing executives, they create accounting questions. Should revenue be recorded at the time the gift card is sold, or when it is exercised? How should expired gift cards be accounted for? In a recent balance sheet, Best Buy reported unearned revenue related to gift cards of \$479 million.

Source: Robert Berner, "Gift Cards: No Gift to Investors," BusinessWeek (March 14, 2005), p. 86.



Suppose that Robert Jones purchases a \$100 gift card at Best Buy on December 24, 2013, and gives it to his wife, Mary Jones, on December 25, 2013. On January 3, 2014, Mary uses the card to purchase \$100 worth of CDs. When do you think Best Buy should recognize revenue and why? (See page 156.)

Adjusting Entries for Accruals

Accruals are made to record

Revenues for services performed

OR

Expenses incurred

in the current accounting period that have not been recognized through daily entries.

ACCRUED REVENUES

Revenues for services performed but not yet received in cash or recorded.

Revenue Recorded

BEFORE

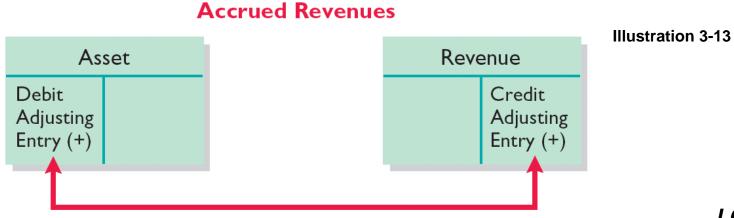
Cash Receipt

Accrued revenues often occur in regard to:

- Rent
- Services performed
- Interest

ACCRUED REVENUES

- Adjusting entry shows the receivable that exists and records the revenues for services performed.
- Adjusting entry:
 - Increases (debits) an asset account and
 - ► Increases (credits) a revenue account.



LO 5

Illustration: In October Pioneer Advertising Agency earned \$200 for advertising services that had not been recorded.

Oct. 31

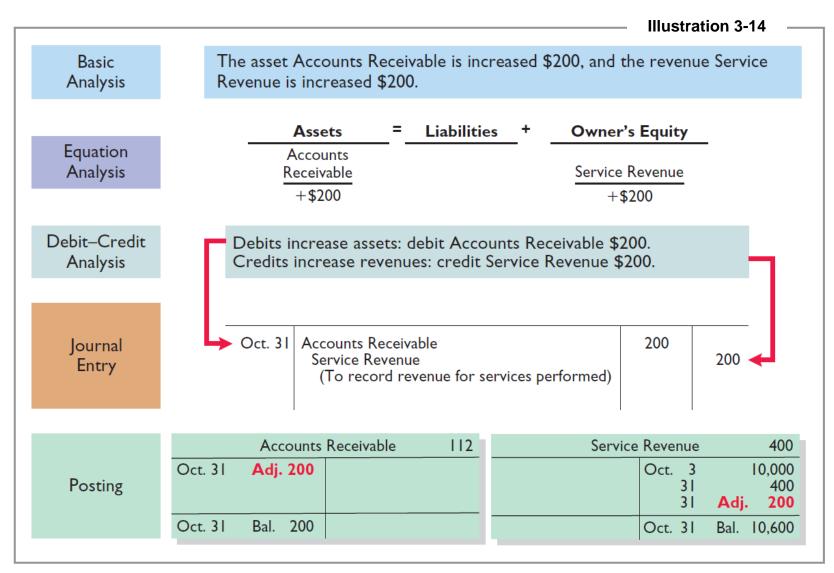
Accounts receivable 200

Service revenue 200

On November 10, Pioneer receives cash of \$200 for the services performed.

Nov. 10 Cash 200

Accounts receivable 200



3-41 LO 5

Illustration 3-15

ACCOUNTING FOR ACCRUED REVENUES					
Reason for Accounts Before Adjusting Examples Adjustment Adjustment Entry					
Interest, rent, services	Services performed but not yet received in cash or recorded.	Assets understated. Revenues understated.	Dr. Assets Cr. Revenues		



A report released by Fannie Mae's board of directors stated that improper adjusting entries at the mortgage-finance company resulted in delayed recognition of expenses caused by interest-rate changes. The motivation for such accounting apparently was the desire to hit earnings estimates.

ACCRUED EXPENSES

Expenses incurred but not yet paid in cash or recorded.

Expense Recorded

BEFORE

Cash Payment

Accrued expenses often occur in regard to:

Rent

Taxes

Interest

Salaries

ACCRUED EXPENSES

- Adjusting entry records the obligation and recognizes the expense.
- Adjusting entry:
 - Increase (debit) an expense account and
 - **Increase** (credit) a **liability account**.

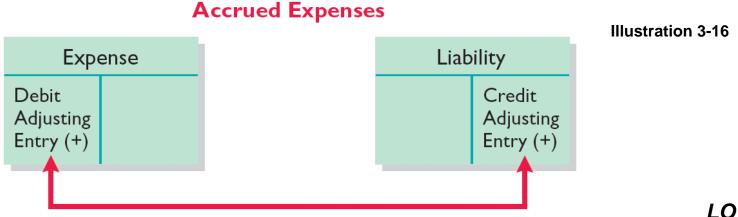
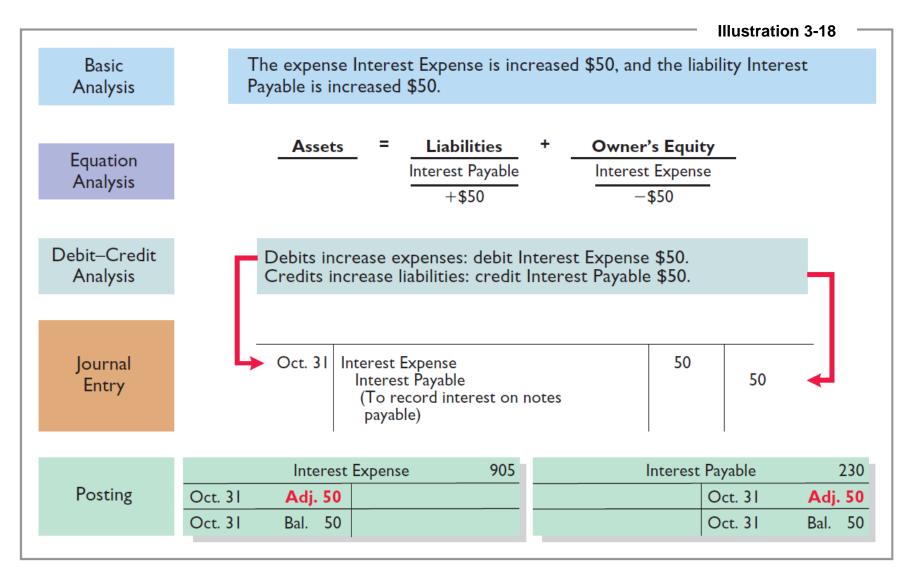


Illustration: Pioneer Advertising Agency signed a three-month note payable in the amount of \$5,000 on October 1. The note requires Pioneer to pay interest at an annual rate of 12%.

Illustration 3-17

Face Value of Note	×	Annual Interest Rate	×	Time in Terms of One Year	=	Interest	
\$5,000	×	12%	×	$\frac{1}{12}$	=	\$50	

Oct. 31 Interest expense 50
Interest payable 50



3-46 LO 5

INTERNATIONAL INSIGHT



Cashing In on Accrual Accounting

The Chinese government, like most governments, uses cash accounting. A recent report, however, noted that it decided to use accrual accounting versus cash accounting for about \$38 billion of expenditures in a recent budget projection. The Chinese government decided to expense the amount in the year in which it was originally allocated rather than when the payments would be made. Why did the Chinese government do this? It enabled the government to keep its projected budget deficit below a 3% threshold. While the Chinese government was able to keep its projected shortfall below 3%, it did suffer some criticism for its inconsistent accounting. Critics charge that this inconsistent treatment reduces the transparency of China's accounting information. That is, it is not easy for outsiders to accurately evaluate what is really going on.

Source: Andrew Batson, "China Altered Budget Accounting to Reduce Deficit Figure," Wall Street Journal Online (March 15, 2010).

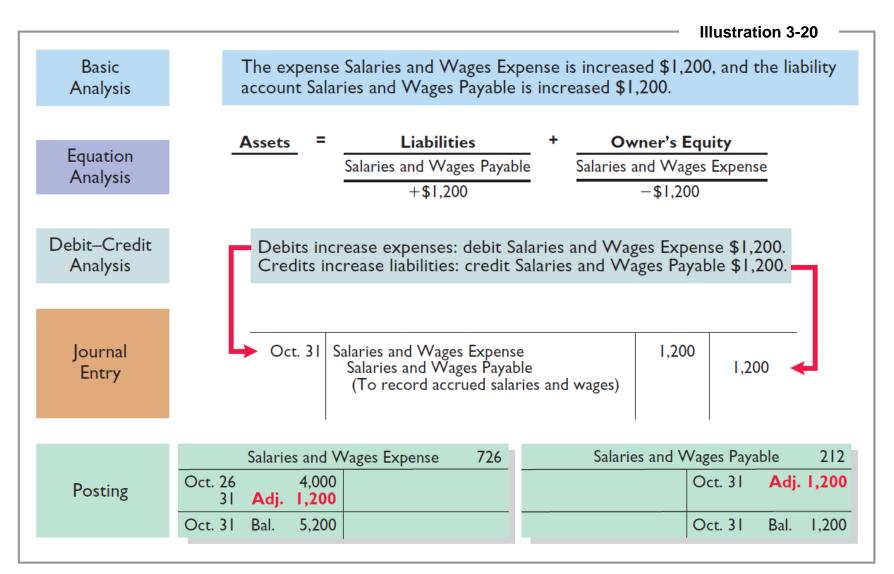


Accrual accounting is often considered superior to cash accounting. Why, then, were some people critical of China's use of accrual accounting in this instance? (See page 157.)

Illustration: Pioneer Advertising Agency last paid salaries on October 26; the next payment of salaries will not occur until November 9. The employees receive total salaries of \$2,000 for a five-day work week, or \$400 per day. Thus, accrued salaries at October 31 are \$1,200 (\$400 x 3 days).

Illustration 3-19 October November S M Tu W Th Start of 11 12 13 14 15 16 pay period 23 24 25 26 27 19 20 21 22 23 24 29 30 31 25 26 27 28 30 Adjustment period **Payday Payday**

LO 5 Prepare adjusting entries for accruals.



3-49 LO 5

Illustration 3-21

ACCOUNTING FOR ACCRUED EXPENSES					
Examples	Reason for Adjustment	Accounts Before Adjustment	Adjusting Entry		
Interest, rent, salaries	Expenses have been incurred but not yet paid in cash or recorded.	Expenses understated. Liabilities understated.	Dr. Expenses Cr. Liabilities		

PEOPLE, PLANET, AND PROFIT INSIGHT



Got Junk?

Do you have an old computer or two that you no longer use? How about an old TV that needs replacing? Many people do. Approximately 163,000 computers and televisions become obsolete **each day**. Yet, in a recent year, only 11% of computers were recycled. It is estimated that 75% of all computers ever sold are sitting in storage somewhere, waiting to be disposed of. Each of these old TVs and computers is loaded with lead, cadmium, mercury, and other toxic chemicals. If you have one of these electronic gadgets, you have a responsibility, and a probable cost, for disposing of it. Companies have the same problem, but their discarded materials may include lead paint, asbestos, and other toxic chemicals.



What accounting issue might this cause for companies?

Summary of Basic Relationships

Illustration 3-22

Type of Adjustment	Accounts Before Adjustment	Adjusting Entry
Prepaid expenses	Assets overstated	Dr. Expenses
	Expenses understated	Cr. Assets or
		Contra Assets
Unearned revenues	Liabilities overstated	Dr. Liabilities
	Revenues understated	Cr. Revenues
Accrued revenues	Assets understated	Dr. Assets
	Revenues understated	Cr. Revenues
Accrued expenses	Expenses understated	Dr. Expenses
	Liabilities understated	Cr. Liabilities

The Adjusted Trial Balance

Adjusted Trial Balance

- Prepared after all adjusting entries are journalized and posted.
- Purpose is to prove the equality of debit balances and credit balances in the ledger.
- Is the primary basis for the preparation of financial statements.

PIONEER ADVERTISING Adjusted Trial Bala October 31, 201	ince	Illustration 3-25
Cash	Dr. \$ 15,200	Cr.
Accounts Receivable	200	
Supplies	1,000	
Prepaid Insurance	550	
Equipment	5,000	
Accumulated Depreciation—Equipment		\$ 40
Notes Payable		5,000
Accounts Payable		2,500
Interest Payable		50
Unearned Service Revenue		800
Salaries and Wages Payable		1,200
Owner's Capital		10,000
Owner's Drawings	500	
Service Revenue		10,600
Salaries and Wages Expense	5,200	
Supplies Expense	1,500	
Rent Expense	900	
Insurance Expense	50	
Interest Expense	50	
Depreciation Expense	40	
	\$30,190	\$30,190

The Adjusted Trial Balance

Review Question

Which of the following statements is *incorrect* concerning the adjusted trial balance?

- a. An adjusted trial balance proves the equality of the total debit balances and the total credit balances in the ledger after all adjustments are made.
- b. The adjusted trial balance provides the primary basis for the preparation of financial statements.
- c. The adjusted trial balance lists the account balances segregated by assets and liabilities.
 - d. The adjusted trial balance is prepared after the adjusting entries have been journalized and posted.

The Financial Statements

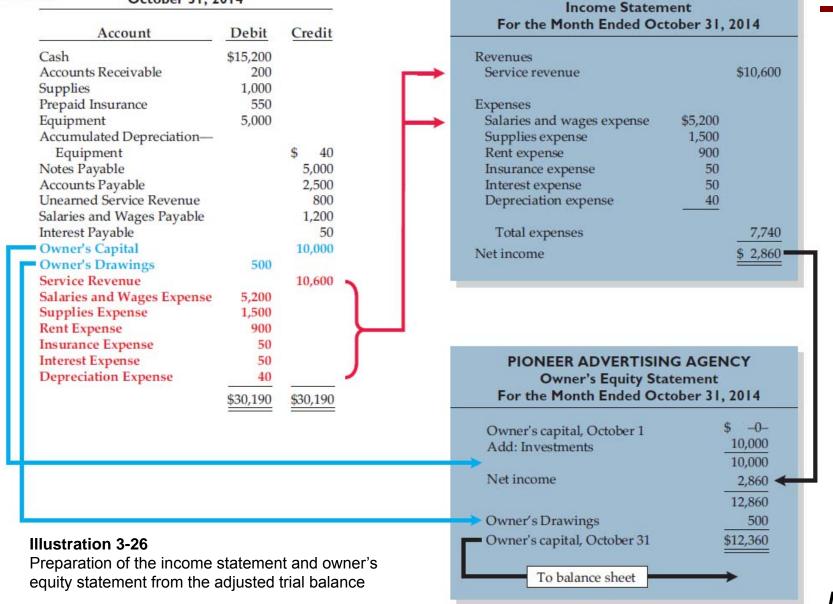
Financial Statements are prepared directly from the Adjusted Trial Balance.

Owner's Equity Statement

Balance Sheet



PIONEER ADVERTISING AGENCY Adjusted Trial Balance October 31, 2014



PIONEER ADVERTISING AGENCY

PIONEER ADVERTISING AGENCY Adjusted Trial Balance October 31, 2014

Account	Debit	Credit
Cash	\$15,200	
Accounts Receivable	200	
Supplies	1,000	
Prepaid Insurance	550	
Equipment	5,000	
Accumulated Depreciation—		
Equipment		\$ 40
Notes Payable		5,000
Accounts Payable		2,500
Unearned Service Revenue		800
Salaries and Wages Payable		1,200
Interest Payable		50 •
Owner's Capital		10,000
Owner's Drawings	500	
Service Revenue		10,600
Salaries and Wages Expense	5,200	
Supplies Expense	1,500	
Rent Expense	900	
Insurance Expense	50	
Interest Expense	50	
Depreciation Expense	40	
	\$30,190	\$30,190

PIONEER ADVERTISING AGENCY Balance Sheet October 31, 2014

	Assets		
	Cash		\$15,200
	Accounts receivable		200
	Supplies		1,000
	Prepaid insurance		550
	Equipment	\$5,000	
	Less: Accumulated		
	depreciation—equip.	40	4,960
	Total assets		\$21,910
	Liabilities and Ow	ner's Equity	
	Liabilities		
`	Notes payable		\$ 5,000
	Accounts payable		2,500
	Unearned service revenue	!	800
	Salaries and wages payabl	le	1,200
	Interest payable		50
	Total liabilities		9,550
	Owner's equity		
>	Owner's capital		12,360
	Total liabilities and		
	owner's equity		\$21,910
	Capital balance at Oct. 31		
	from Owner's Equity Statement in Illustration 3-26		

Illustration 3-27

Preparation of the balance sheet from the adjusted trial balance

3-58 LO 6

APPENDIX 3A Alterna

Alternative Treatment of Prepaid Expenses and Unearned Revenues

Prepaid Expenses

- When a company prepays an expense, it debits that amount to an expense account.
- When it receives payment for future services, it credits the amount to a revenue account.

APPENDIX 3A Alternative Treatment of Prepaid Expenses and Unearned Revenues

Prepaid Expenses

Company may choose to **debit (increase) an expense account** rather than an asset account. This alternative treatment is simply more convenient.

Illustration 3A-2

Prepayment Initially Debited to Asset Account (per chapter)		Prepayment Initially Debited to Expense Account (per appendix)		
Oct. 5 Supplies Accounts Payable	2,500 2,500	Oct. 5 Supplies Expense 2,500 Accounts Payable 2,500		
Oct. 31 Supplies Expense Supplies	1,500 1,500	Oct. 31 Supplies 1,000 Supplies Expense 1,000		

APPENDIX 3A Alternative Treatment of Prepaid Expenses and Unearned Revenues

Unearned Revenues

Company may **credit (increase) a revenue account** when they receive cash for future services.

Illustration 3A-5

Unearned Service Revenue Initially Credited to Liability Account (per chapter)		Unearned Service Revenue Initially Credited to Revenue Account (per appendix)				
Oct. 2 Cash Unearned Service Revenue	1,200	,200	Oct. 2	Cash Service Revenue	1,200	1,200
Oct. 31 Unearned Service Revenue Service Revenue	400	400	Oct. 31	Service Revenue Unearned Service Revenue	800	800

APPENDIX 3A Alternative Treatment of Prepaid Expenses and Unearned Revenues

Summary of Additional Adjustment Relationships

Illustration 3A-7

Type of Adjustment	Reason for Adjustment	Account Balances before Adjustment	Adjusting Entry
1. Prepaid expenses	(a) Prepaid expenses initially recorded in asset accounts have been used.(b) Prepaid expenses initially recorded in expense accounts have not been used.	Assets overstated Expenses understated Assets understated Expenses overstated	Dr. Expenses Cr. Assets Dr. Assets Cr. Expenses
2. Unearned revenues	 (a) Unearned revenues initially recorded in liability accounts are now recognized as revenue. (b) Unearned revenues initially recorded in revenue accounts are still unearned. 	Liabilities overstated Revenues understated Liabilities understated Revenues overstated	Dr. Liabilities Cr. Revenues Dr. Revenues Cr. Liabilities

Qualities of Useful Information

According to the FASB, useful information should possess two fundamental qualities, **relevance** and **faithful representation**.

• Relevance Accounting information has relevance if it would make a difference in a business decision. Information is considered relevant if it provides information that has predictive value, that is, helps provide accurate expectations about the future, and has confirmatory value, that is, confirms or corrects prior expectations. Materiality is a company-specific aspect of relevance. An item is material when its size makes it likely to influence the decision of an investor or creditor.

Qualities of Useful Information

According to the FASB, useful information should possess two fundamental qualities, **relevance** and **faithful representation**.

◆ Faithful Representation Faithful representation means that information accurately depicts what really happened. To provide a faithful representation, information must be complete (nothing important has been omitted), neutral (is not biased toward one position or another), and free from error.

Qualities of Useful Information

ENHANCING QUALITIES

Comparability results
when different
companies use the
same accounting
principles.

Information is

verifiable if

independent

observers, using the
same methods, obtain
similar results.

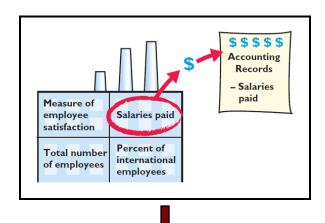
Information has the quality of understandability if it is presented in a clear and concise fashion.

Consistency means that a company uses the same accounting principles and methods from year to year.

For accounting information to have relevance, it must be **timely**.

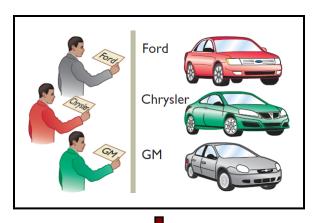
Assumptions in Financial Reporting

Illustration 3B-2



Monetary Unit

Requires that only those things that can be expressed in money are included in the accounting records.

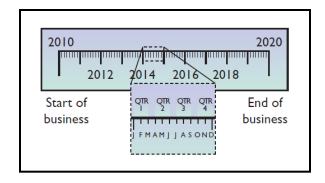


Economic Entity

States that every economic entity can be separately identified and accounted for.

Assumptions in Financial Reporting

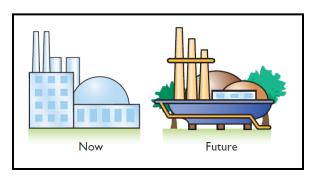
Illustration 3B-2





Time Period

States that the life of a business can be divided into artificial time periods.





The business will remain in operation for the foreseeable future.

Principles in Financial Reporting

MEASUREMENT PRINCIPLES

HISTORICAL COST

Or cost principle, dictates that companies record assets at their cost.

FAIR VALUE

Indicates that
assets and
liabilities should be
reported at fair
value (the price
received to sell an
asset or settle
a liability).

Principles in Financial Reporting

REVENUE RECOGNITION PRINCIPLE

Requires that
companies
recognize revenue
in the accounting
period in which the
performance
obligation is
satisfied.

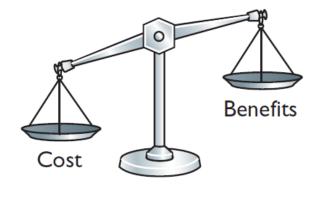
EXPENSE RECOGNITION PRINCIPLE

Dictates that efforts (expenses) be matched with results (revenues). Thus, expenses follow revenues.

FULL DISCLOSURE PRINCIPLE

Requires that companies disclose all circumstances and events that would make a difference to financial statement users.

Cost Constraint



Cost Constraint

Accounting standard-setters weigh the cost that companies will incur to provide the information against the benefit that financial statement users will gain from having the information available.



Key Points

- Companies applying IFRS also use accrual-basis accounting to ensure that they record transactions that change a company's financial statements in the period in which events occur.
- Similar to GAAP, cash-basis accounting is not in accordance with IFRS.
- ◆ IFRS also divides the economic life of companies into artificial time periods. Under both GAAP and IFRS, this is referred to as the time period assumption.
- IFRS requires that companies present a complete set of financial statements, including comparative information annually.



Key Points

- The general revenue recognition principle required by GAAP that is used in this textbook is similar to that used under IFRS.
- Revenue recognition fraud is a major issue in U.S. financial reporting. The same situation occurs in other countries, as evidenced by revenue recognition breakdowns at Dutch software company Baan NV, Japanese electronics giant NEC, and Dutch grocer AHold NV.
- Under IFRS, revaluation of items such as land and buildings is permitted. IFRS allows depreciation based on revaluation of assets, which is not permitted under GAAP.



Key Points

The terminology used for revenues and gains, and expenses and losses, differs somewhat between IFRS and GAAP. For example, income is defined as:

> Increases in economic benefits during the accounting period in the form of inflows or enhancements of assets or decreases of liabilities that result in increases in equity, other than those relating to contributions from shareholders.

Expenses are defined as:

Decreases in economic benefits during the accounting period in the form of outflows or depletions of assets or incurrences of liabilities that result in decreases in equity other than those relating to distributions to shareholders.



Looking into the Future

The IASB and FASB are completing a joint project on revenue recognition. The purpose of this project is to develop comprehensive guidance on when to recognize revenue. It is hoped that this approach will lead to more consistent accounting in this area. For more on this topic, see www.fasb.org/project/revenue_recognition.shtml.



IFRS Practice

IFRS:

- a. uses accrual accounting.
 - b. uses cash-basis accounting.
 - c. allows revenue to be recognized when a customer makes an order.
 - d. requires that revenue not be recognized until cash is received.



IFRS Practice

Which of the following statements is false?

- a. IFRS employs the periodicity assumption.
- b. IFRS employs accrual accounting.
- IFRS requires that revenues and costs must be capable of being measured reliably.
- d. IFRS uses the cash basis of accounting.



IFRS Practice

As a result of the revenue recognition project being undertaken by the FASB and IASB:

- a. revenue recognition places more emphasis on when the performance obligation is satisfied.
 - b. revenue recognition places more emphasis on when revenue is realized.
 - c. revenue recognition places more emphasis on when expenses are incurred.
 - d. revenue is no longer recorded unless cash has been received.

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