

Breakdown of a **CREDIT SCORE**

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- IT'S A -
**MONEY
THING®**

A stylized illustration of a park scene. On the left, a girl with long orange hair, wearing a white shirt and purple pants, sits on the grass under a large tree with a hollow. In the foreground, a small squirrel stands next to a sign that says 'CREDIT SCORE'. A small table with papers is nearby. The background features rolling green hills, a winding path, a bench, and a light blue sky with a single cloud.

Before **CREDIT SCORES**

- No standard for measuring risk
- Up to individual lenders to judge loan applicants

What is a
CREDIT SCORE?



A credit score is a number used by financial institutions and credit card companies **to determine risk level** when issuing you a loan or a credit card.

The FICO® score is the most widely used credit score model in North America.

It was introduced in 1989 by Fair, Isaac and Company, now Fair Isaac Corporation.

Fair Isaac Corporation



FICO

EQUIFAX® TRANSUNION® EXPERIAN®

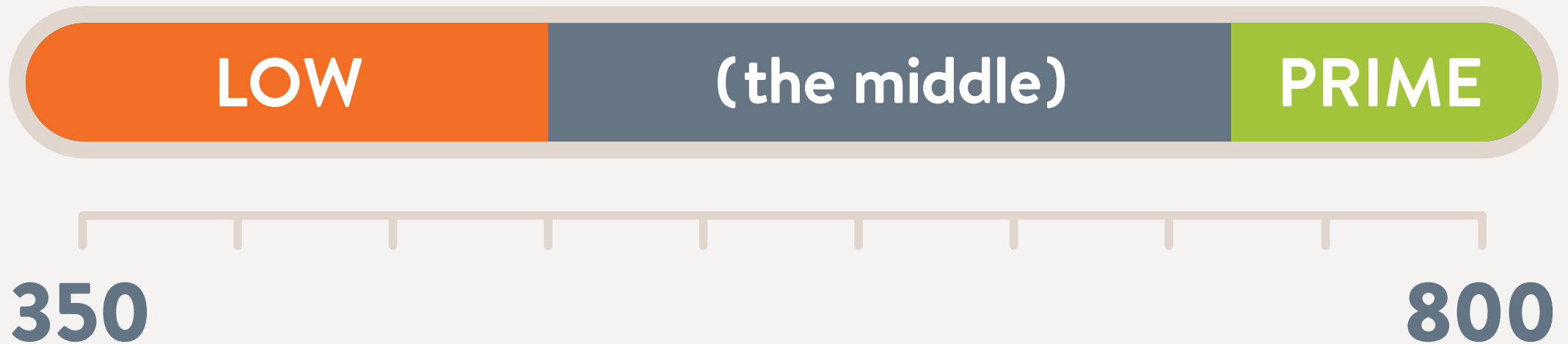


Since each credit bureau uses its own formula, **your FICO score can vary**, depending on which bureau supplies the information.

What does my score
MEAN?



Most credit scores are between 350 and 800



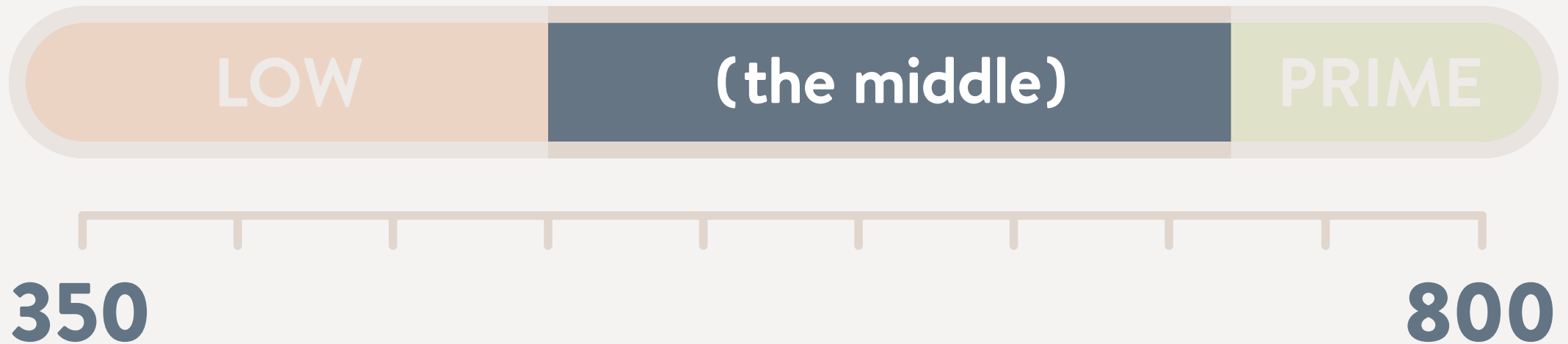
LOW (<550)

A low score means you could be denied a loan or a credit card



MIDDLE (550 to 720)

You might get approved for a loan,
but at a higher interest rate



PRIME (720+)

Loan approval at the best rates;
this is where you want your score to be



Why does my score
MATTER?



Credit scores can influence:



**Renting an
Apartment**



**Student
Loans**



**Car
Payments**

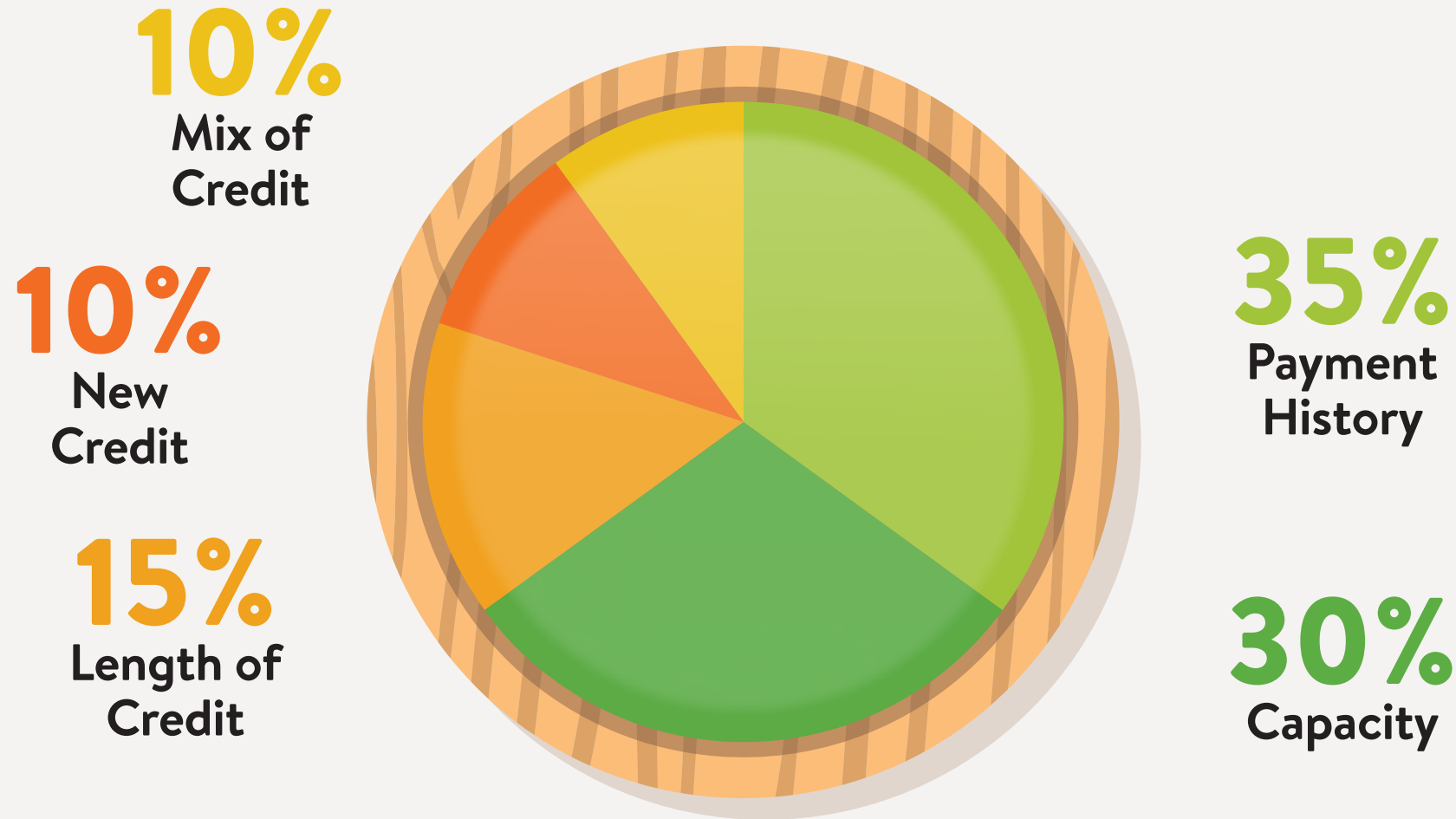


**Job
Applications**

How are credit scores
CALCULATED?



The breakdown of a credit score goes like this:

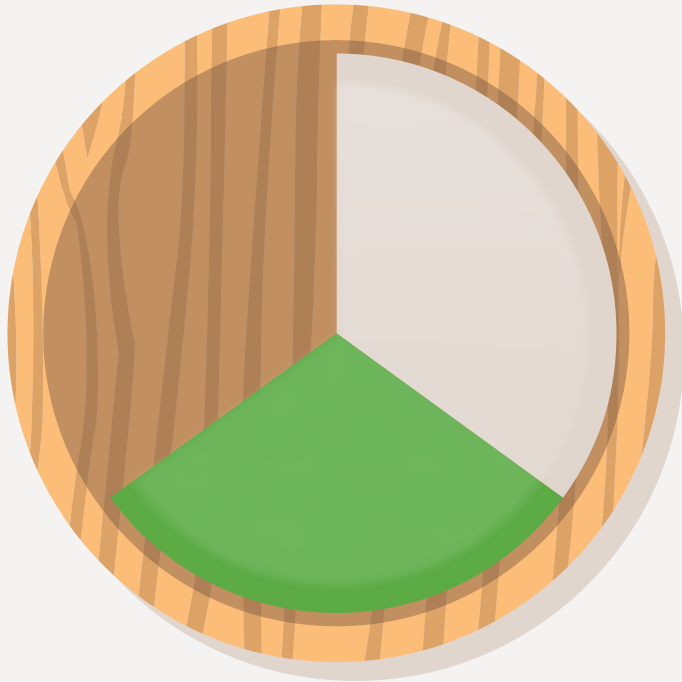


PAYMENT HISTORY (35%)



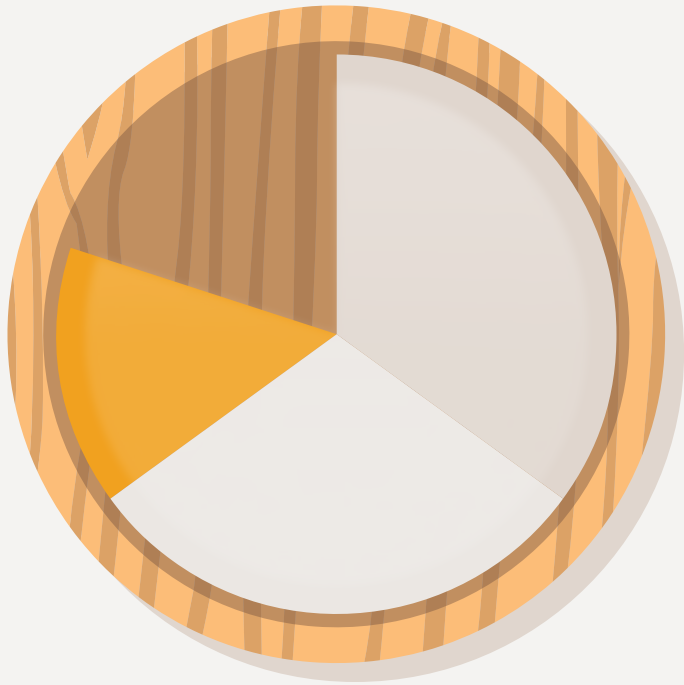
Making payments on time
boosts your score

CAPACITY (30%)



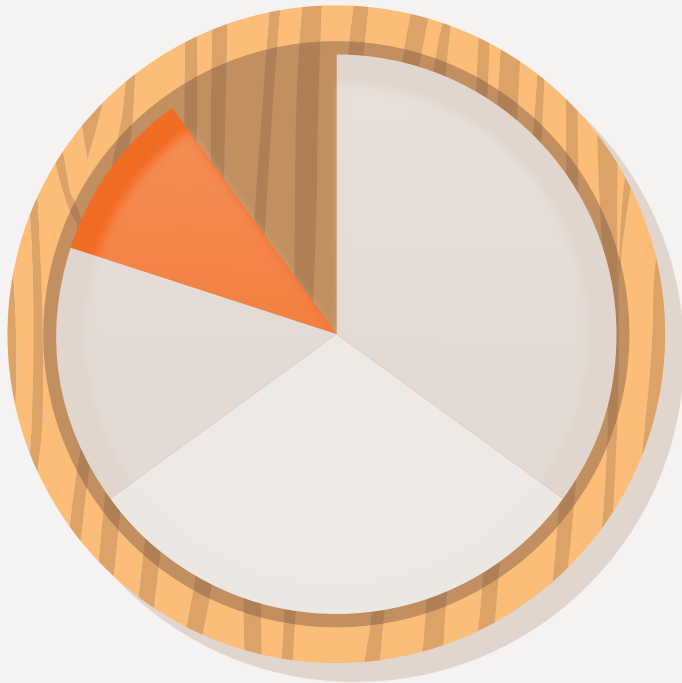
- How much of your available credit you actually use
- The less you use, the better
- Maxing out your lines of credit harms your score

LENGTH OF CREDIT (15%)



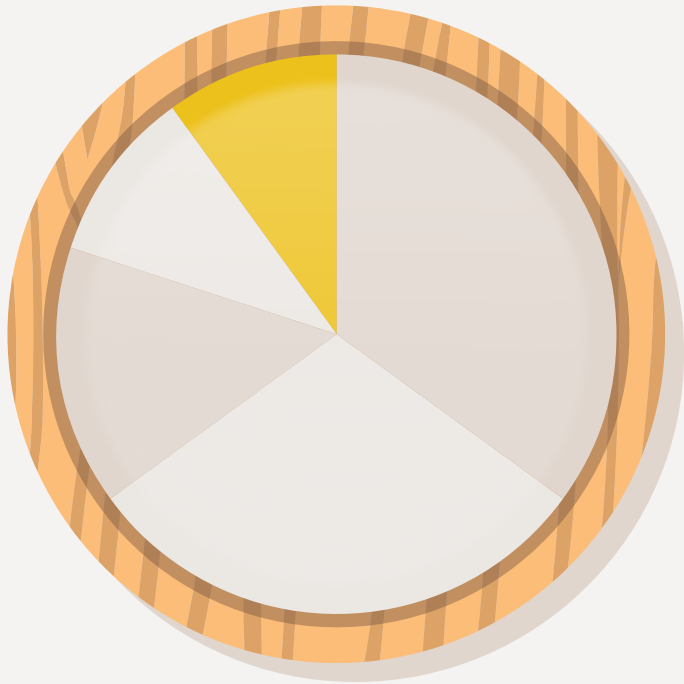
A long history of good credit habits raises your score

NEW CREDIT (10%)



- Opening a bunch of new credit lines in a short amount of time hurts your score
- This includes retail credit cards

MIX OF CREDIT (10%)



- Revolving credit
(*e.g, credit cards*)
- Installment loans
(*e.g, mortgages, car loans*)

How do I keep track of
MY SCORE?





You can request **one free credit report per year** from each of the major credit bureaus.

Visit annualcreditreport.com to get started.

**Space out your requests
by a few months** so you
can check on your credit
year-round.



Things to look for on your credit report that influence your credit score:

- **Account openings**
- **Account closings**
- **Repayment history**
- **Mix of credit**

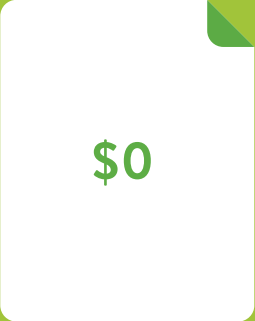
Need access to your credit score?

(You won't find it on your credit report.)



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Access through a major credit bureau for a fee
(usually \$15–\$25)



\$0

Get a free estimate (not the same formula as FICO,
so it won't be exact) through ***creditkarma.com***

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Sources: FICO, Forbes, FTC Guide to Credit Scores

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