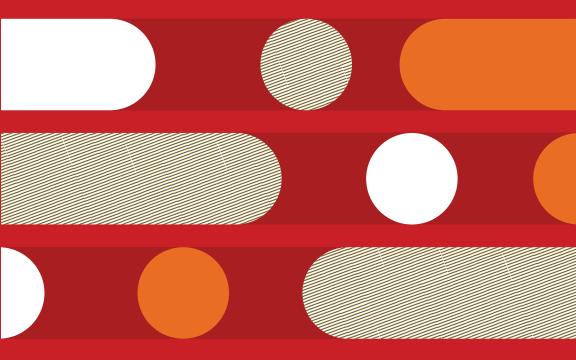


# ACCOUNTING

2015

Articles | Books & Chapters | Cases | Course Modules Online Courses | Online Tutorials | Simulations





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# CASES

Cases, slices of business life, focus on actual problems and decisions facing a company. Students are challenged to put themselves in the protagonist's place and suggest business strategies, tactics, and solutions.

#### **New Cases**

#### 7-Eleven in Thailand

7-Eleven is a prominent retail chain in Thailand. In 2011 the earnings per share increased, but the return on equity (ROE) declined and the company had negative working capital. It was necessary to trim the fat, enhance ROE, and focus on strategies for future growth. Ivey Publishing #W13518

#### Boston Children's Hospital: Measuring Patient Costs (Abridged)

The case describes a pilot project on using activity-based costing to measure the cost of treating patients. After an overview of Boston Children's Hospital, the case presents process maps and financial data related to patients' office visits to a plastic surgeon for 3 different diagnoses. Harvard Business School #914407

#### The Business School at Ivv State University: Cost Behaviors

Some potentially painful cost reductions will have to be made at the Ivy State University Business School, and the business manager must develop a list of initial cost cuts. To help visualize costs, he uses graphs to understand and communicate which resources should be curtailed. TN Darden School of Business #UV6746

#### Diamond Foods, Inc.

This case describes a major accounting scandal at Diamond Foods in 2011 that was triggered by a report by a prominent short-selling research firm. Diamond Foods grew from a walnut farmers' cooperative in 2005 into a branded snack foods manufacturer on the strength of a series of acquisitions. The case covers accounting quality with specific focus on revenue and expense recognition issues. TN Harvard Business School #113055

#### Fly Ash Brick Project: Feasibility Study Using CVP Analysis

An entrepreneur in India is planning to set up a fly ash brick manufacturing plant with the capacity to manufacture 4 million bricks. Based on demand, he estimates that 2.4 million bricks can be sold per year, and he wants to determine the project's feasibility using costvolume-profit analysis. TN Ivey Publishing #W13543

#### For-Profit Higher Education: University of Phoenix

This case illustrates the business model of for-profit education providers and applies the concept of matching to the underlying economics of business. This case also highlights the bad debt expense using the allowance method and introduces students to the income statement. TN Harvard Business School #114024

#### Mama J's Marmalade

The CEO of a marmalade manufacturer must update accounting records for the fiscal year. He gathers the previous year's financial statements and a list of cash receipts and disbursements for the current year in order to perform a financial analysis.

TN Ivey Publishing #W14054

#### Santaló SA

Santaló SA is a multidivisional company with sales offices in several European countries and manufacturing plants in others. The management control system has been badly designed. Students must first identify the problem and then provide a solution in light of an accountant's recommendation that no changes be made. TN The Crimson Group #TCG029

#### Showdown at Cracker Barrel

Activist investor Sardar Biglari has acquired nearly 10% ownership in the Cracker Barrel restaurant chain. He believes that the board and senior management have failed and the company has underperformed relative to its peers. When he is denied a seat on the board, Biglari initiates a proxy fight in an attempt to win a board position and change the direction of Cracker Barrel's strategy. The Harvard Business School #114026

#### Tech Mahindra and the Acquisition of Satyam Computers (A)

Tech Mahindra is owned by the Mahindra Group, a multi-industry company with a diverse stable of businesses. Tech Mahindra has decided to acquire a controlling stake in Satyam Computer Services, a troubled Indian IT company that has been managed by a government-appointed board. *Harvard Business School* #114049

# Popular Cases

#### A Letter from Prison

Stephen Richards, the former global head of sales at Computer Associates, Inc., is serving a 7-year prison sentence for financial fraud. In the case, Richards responds to questions about managerial responsibility and the manipulation of financial performance in a letter written to a graduate student. TN HBS Premier Case Collection #110045

"This is a great case that I used in my MBA managerial accounting class to finish the semester by focusing on the ethical issues faced by management."

-Review on the HBP for Educators web site\*

#### **Body Benefits**

The proprietor of a day spa must decide whether to purchase a microdermabrasion machine. This differential analysis case will test students' abilities to identify costs that are recurring cash flows and costs that are investments, calculate working capital investments, differentiate between relevant and nonrelevant costs for a differential analysis, and conduct a sensitivity analysis. TN | Ivey Publishing #905B01

#### Classic Pen Co.: Developing an ABC Model

Classic Pen has diversified from its core blue and black pen business by introducing new specialized colors. But costs have risen, and margins on blue and black pens are decreasing. The controller turns to activity-based costing (ABC) for an explanation.

TN Harvard Business School #198117

#### Codman & Shurtleff, Inc.: Planning and Control System

This case includes a detailed description of the planning and control systems at Johnson & Johnson. It focuses on managers in one subsidiary and how they revise budget targets and illustrates intensive strategic and financial planning in a large, decentralized company.

TN Harvard Business School #187081

#### Compagnie du Froid, S.A.

The owner of an ice cream company must evaluate the performance of 3 regional businesses. Students must flex the budget by seasonal temperature; calculate revenue, volume, price, and efficiency variances; analyze the effects of transfer prices; and calculate return on investment. In addition, the owner considers how to set strategic boundaries and how to compensate his managers. TN Harvard Business School #197085

### Customer Profitability and Customer Relationship Management at RBC Financial Group (Abridged)

The Royal Bank of Canada uses customer relationship management and customer profitability tools to gain competitive advantage in Canada's crowded financial services market. The case presents 2 pricing and customer management issues: one from the point of view of the vice president of customer relationship marketing and the other from a line manager's perspective. TN Harvard Business School #102072

#### Microsoft's Financial Reporting Strategy

This case explores Microsoft's overall financial reporting strategy by examining the company's treatment of two accounting issues-software capitalization and revenue recognition. For both issues, the company selects accounting methods that are relatively conservative. TN Harvard Business School #100027

#### Salem Telephone Co.

A computer subsidiary appears to be unprofitable. Managers must determine whether it is actually unprofitable and consider whether changes in prices or promotion might improve profitability. Allows clear separation of variable costs from fixed costs.

TN Harvard Business School #104086

#### Seligram, Inc.: Electronic Testing Operations

This case explores the obsolescence of a cost system when technology changes. In particular, it asks students to increase the number of cost center and allocation bases. The firm moves from a signle-center, direct labor-hour system to a 3-center, direct labor-hour and machinehour system. TN Harvard Business School #189084

#### Traveling Thai Ltd.

A company that has a fleet of food trucks serving Thai food has issued bonds twice since its incorporation. Because the company has reached a level of maturity and is in the sixth year of operations, it is able to recall a portion of the bonds. The other bonds mature. Students are asked to record the transactions related to these bonds. Ivey Publishing #W12116

#### → Find more cases at hbsp.harvard.edu

#### **Brief Cases**

Rigorous and compact, Harvard Business School Brief Cases present realistic management challenges for students to discuss. Audio versions are available for select Brief Cases to aid in student preparation.

#### Biovail Corporation: Revenue Recognition and FOB Sales Accounting

Biovail Corporation, a major Canadian pharmaceutical company, announces that it will miss its quarterly earnings target by \$25 million to \$45 million. The company blames \$10 million to \$15 million of the shortfall on a truck accident that occurred on the last day of the quarter. TN #4011 🔐

#### Danshui Plant No. 2

A plant in southern China has a contract to assemble 2.4 million Apple iPhones. Three months into the contract, the plant is operating at a loss. The plant manager analyzes the budget and considers whether changing from a static to a flexible budget can help uncover the performance problems. #913525

#### Depreciation at Delta Air Lines: The "Fresh Start"

After Delta adopts fair value accounting as part of its "fresh start" emergence from bankruptcy, the company changes its approach to depreciating its aircraft. Introduces students to depreciation policy and the links between accounting policies and financial reporting choices. TN #4013  $\Omega$ 

## Jimmy Fu and Moog, Inc.: Understanding Shareholders' Equity

Jimmy Fu is interviewing for a job at Moog, Inc. The vesting and termination language for the stock plan in the job offer leads Jimmy to investigate the shareholders' equity section of the Moog balance sheet, and he finds more activity than he expects. TN #4203 ()

#### **Luotang Power: Variances and Cost Allocations**

The general manager of a coal-fired power plant in central China prepares for a presentation to the board of directors. He believes his company performed well in the previous year in several key metrics, but the performance is not reflected in the financial results. TN #913533

#### Lyons Document Storage Corporation: Bond Math

A manager must consider the possible consequences of the refunding of bonds issued in 2000 when interest rates were higher. Students must calculate the present value of interest and principal payments. TN #3215 (

#### Merrimack Tractors and Mowers: LIFO or FIFO?

A CFO proposes changing from LIFO to FIFO to maintain earnings growth, but the plan has income tax consequences. The case demonstrates that firms often have choices about accounting policies.  $\frac{1}{10}$  #3217  $\frac{1}{10}$ 

#### The Talbots, Inc., and Its Subsidiaries: Accounting for Goodwill

Focusing on the firm's acquisition of J. Jill, the case demonstrates what goodwill is, how it originates, how it is measured at acquisition, and how it is amortized or impaired. Audio version available. TN #3254

#### → Find more Brief Cases at hbsp.harvard.edu/list/brief-cases

#### Multimedia Cases

Now available online, multimedia cases put students in the center of business dilemmas by bringing concepts to life with animated charts, audio, and video segments. Premium Educators can see a Free Trial of each case online.

#### Enterprise Risk Management at Hydro One

Canadian energy giant Hydro One was an early adopter of Enterprise Risk Management. The company anticipated new threats and opportunities in the past, but the CEO believes that the company's risk profile has changed. TN Harvard Business School #110707

#### The Future of Financial Reporting

In 2007, the SEC chairman invites Robert C. "Bob" Pozen to chair an advisory committee of experts to explore two changes to GAAP. Students must put themselves in the shoes of Pozen and make actionable recommendations on the future of fair value accounting and principles-based accounting. TN Harvard Business School #110701

→ Find more multimedia cases at hbsp.harvard.edu/list/elearning

# ARTICLES

Articles from Harvard Business Review and other renowned journals provide up-to-theminute ideas from the best business thinkers.

#### New Article

#### A Cheaper Way to Do IPOs

Initial public offerings are expensive, and many owners turn to M&A instead. But a littleunderstood mechanism known as a tax receivable agreement can offset the high costs of an IPO offering. Investment banks and private equity firms are already using this tool; other companies should too. Harvard Business Review #F1311B

# Popular Articles

#### Audit Committees Can't Add

University of Chicago's Roman Weil charges that many audit committee members are financially illiterate—and he has the test results to prove it. Harvard Business Review #F0405D

#### The Hollow Science

The financial meltdown made clear that the executives of many financial institutions were operating with inadequate or distorted information about values and risks of their firms' assets. Business scholars need to begin exploring the interior of leading-edge companies to provide detailed, qualitative case studies. Harvard Business Review #F1105E

#### Just the Facts (and Forecasts)

By definition, forecasted numbers in a financial statement involve educated guesses, but that's not always clear in the statement itself. To reduce the legal liability for off-the-mark predictions, a proposed new model for financial statements clearly distinguishes hard numbers from forecasts. Harvard Business Review #F0406D

#### One World-One Accounting

Historically, companies have been required to produce financial statements based on country-specific financial reporting standards. This article explores the different accounting methods used for financial statement reporting around the globe and analyzes the concept of all businesses adopting the same set of rules. Business Horizons #BH354

#### **Turn Your Budgeting Process Upside Down**

Rather than highlight short-term accounting profits, budgets should emphasize future cash. That, as Warren Buffett knows, is where a company's growth potential lies. Changes as simple as replacing the word "budgets" and revising the format of budget reports can put you on a growth footing. Harvard Business Review #F0407B

#### Why "Fair Value" Is the Rule

The membership of the Financial Accounting Standards Board has shifted to include more members from the financial services industry. As a result, the long-standing practice of keeping books at historical cost is also shifting to the use of fair value accounting. Harvard Business Review #RI303H

→ Find more articles at hbsp.harvard.edu

# SIMULATIONS

Online simulations present real-world management challenges for students and encourage classroom interaction and discussion. Results are available immediately for a comprehensive debrief session. All simulations include a detailed Teaching Note.

#### Finance Simulation: Capital Budgeting

In this single-player simulation, students assume the role of a member of the capital committee at a high-end doll manufacturing company. Students review 27 different proposals over 5 simulated years to decide which projects to fund across the company's three divisions. Ultimately, students must develop a capital budgeting strategy and choose projects with the greatest impact on the firm's profitability.

Seat Time: 60-90 minutes. TN #3357

"I prefer this simulation to the case approach because students can learn by doing and because it provides instant feedback to learn from."

-Simulation review from HBP web site\*

#### **UPDATED** Working Capital Simulation: Managing Growth V2

In this single-player simulation, students act as the CEO of a small business that distributes vitamins. They must choose to invest in growth opportunities while also considering working capital requirements and improvements to cash flow. A successful strategy requires an understanding of the relationships among the financial statements. The second release of this simulation adds an optional financing decision for students, a new metric tracking the firm's equity value, and a new optional problem set. Seat Time: 60 minutes. TN #7070

→ Find more simulations at hbsp.harvard.edu/list/simulations

#### **ONLINE COURSES**

Available in Sections. Online Courses introduce complex subjects and can be used in advanced undergraduate business courses, used as prematriculation requirements for MBAs, or assigned as homework over a semester or year. Online courses are available as complete courses or in sections.

### **Finance Online Course**

This course introduces core concepts in Finance ranging from ratio analysis to valuation and from pro forma estimating to capital structure. The story line provides a meaningful and engaging context in which students learn the material. Seat Time: 13-15 hours. TN

- Complete Course #208719
- Introductory Section #6000

#### Financial Accounting

The course teaches students how accounting systems are used to record the day-to-day economic activities of a business. Special emphasis is given to understanding accounting terminology. Seat Time: 18-22 hours. TN

- Complete Course #105708
- Introductory Section #6002
- Advanced Section #6003

#### Mathematics for Management

Following the story line of several family-owned businesses, students learn how to apply math concepts to solve problems, analyze data, and predict outcomes.

Seat Time: 12-20 hours. TN

- Complete Course #3350
- Algebra Section #6004
- Calculus Section #6006
- Statistics Section #6007
- Probability Section #6008
- Finance Section #6009

#### Quantitative Methods

Set in a Hawaiian resort, this course teaches statistics and regression analysis from a management perspective. Students develop statistical models for making better business decisions. Seat Time: 20-50 hours. TN

- Complete Course #504702
- Regression Section #6012

"The Quantitative Methods Online Course is a perfect support for teaching Quantitative Analysis." -Online Course review from HBP web site\*

#### **NEW!** Spreadsheet Modeling: Excel 2013

This course shows students how to use Microsoft Excel 2013 as both a reporting tool and a modeling tool for solving business problems. It is appropriate for beginning and advanced users of Excel. Seat Time: 10-20 hours. TN

- Complete Course #9052
- Introductory Section #9053
- Advanced Section #9054

Spreadsheet Modeling: Excel 2007 also available. Complete Course #3252

→ Find more Online Courses at hbsp.harvard.edu/list/online-courses

# **ONLINE TUTORIALS**

Online tutorials allow students to learn basic concepts outside of class, freeing up class time for other learning objectives. Each tutorial requires approximately 2 hours to complete, depending on students' abilities and backgrounds.

### Alternative Choice Decision Analysis

Students learn how to use information on costs and revenues to decide among possible future courses of action. The tutorial presents two case examples of differential cost analysis.

TN #105706

#### **Buying Time**

The tutorial covers the key concepts related to cash flows occurring in different time periods, including present value, future value, compound interest, annuities, and net present value. #104708

#### Cost-Volume-Profit Models

Students use the cost-volume-profit model to determine profit at various levels of unit volume and learn how to calculate a break-even point. The tutorial includes explanations of fixed, variable, and semi-variable costs and their roles in building and interpreting cost-volume-profit models. TN #105705

#### Harvard Manage Mentor: Budgeting Module

Students learn about the budget process, different types of budgets, new techniques and approaches, and common budgeting problems. This guide features easy-to-use budget templates for fast implementation of concepts. #9000

#### Internal Control Process

Introduces the internal control process by detailing its five components: the internal control environment, risk assessment, internal control activities, information and communications, and monitoring. TN #107705

#### Introduction to Cost Accounting Systems

This tutorial covers the basics of cost system design and demonstrates how costs are assigned to cost objects. Key concepts include direct and indirect costs, two-stage allocation, cost pools, and cost drivers. TN #105701

#### Introduction to Responsibility Accounting Systems

Responsibility accounting systems generate financial and related information about the activities of a company's responsibility centers. Lessons include budgets, performance reports, variance reports, and transfer prices. TN #105703

→ Find more online tutorials at hbsp.harvard.edu/list/elearning

# **BOOKS & CHAPTERS**

Individual chapters may be integrated into course materials, while books may serve as primary class texts. Many academic titles from Harvard Business Review Press are now available as eBooks. Each title is available as a PDF and comes with a full-text Educator Copy available to registered Premium Educators on the HBP for Educators web site.

#### Books

#### The Balanced Scorecard: Translating Strategy into Action

The Balanced Scorecard translates a company's strategy into a set of 4 performance measures. These measures offer a balance between short- and long-term goals and objective and subjective measures.

Available as an eBook and in chapters. Harvard Business Review Press. #6513

## Levers of Control: How Managers Use Innovative Control Systems to Drive Strategic Renewal

Based on a 10-year examination of control systems in over 50 U.S. businesses, this book by Robert L. Simons broadens the definition of control and establishes a critical bridge between the disciplines of strategy and accounting and control.

Available in chapters. Harvard Business Review Press. #5592

#### Time-Driven Activity-Based Costing: A Simpler and More Powerful Path to Higher Profits

Many executives who try to implement ABC on a large scale find the approach limiting and frustrating. The authors demonstrate how to implement time-driven activity-based costing (TDABC), an easier and more powerful way to implement ABC than traditional methods. Available in chapters. Harvard Business Review Press. #1711

# Chapters

#### Cost and Strategy

This chapter outlines the 4 questions that a manager must ask about the business to determine the actual cost, planned cost, potential for performance improvement, and integration of this information into the strategic plan. It covers cost analysis in the context of Porter's five forces and examines the relationship between financial accounting and management accounting. From Strategic Cost Analysis #BEP211

#### Introduction: Strategy, Organizations, and Control

Understanding how to control empowered organizations in highly competitive markets is important for both theorists and practicing managers. In this chapter, the author introduces a new, comprehensive theory for controlling business strategy, illustrating how managers gain control of strategy using four basic levers.

From Levers of Control: How Managers Use Innovative Control Systems to Drive Strategic Renewal #2411BC

#### Information for the Longer View: What Managers Need to Know

The time horizon is a primary factor in defining what types of information are used by managers. Daily control of operations calls for different data and information than longrange analysis and planning. This chapter discusses the nature of information used in controlling production, sales, and marketing over a longer time period.

From The Information Mosaic: How Managers Get the Information They Really Need #8265BC

#### Overview of Financial Accounting

This chapter presents a broad introduction to the purposes of financial accounting. It explores the various financial statements and their respective purposes and components. It then covers the accounting process with a comprehensive example illustrating the impact that various transactions and events have on the accounting equation framework. From Financial Reporting Standards #BEP166

→ Find more books and chapters at hbsp.harvard.edu/list/books-chapters

# **COURSE MODULES**

Course modules offer a road map to the best teaching materials, with recommendations on how to organize them. Each module suggests 4 to 6 items plus some alternate suggestions. Popular modules in Accounting include the following:

- Activity-Based Costing and Activity-Based Management
- Asset Accounting and Revenue Recognition
- Cost Information for Decisions
- Introduction to Cost Accounting
- Liabilities, Cash Flows, and Stockholders' Equity
- → Find more course modules at hbsp.harvard.edu/list/course-module

# Case Startup Kits

# CASE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INSTRUCTORS NEW TO CASE TEACHING

The Case Startup Kit is designed to help aspiring case teachers begin using cases in their courses. Each kit recommends 8 to 10 cases that are ideal to use as a "first case" for instructors new to case teaching.

The cases recommended in each kit are selected for their brevity, ease of use, and teachability. Most cases are compact—fewer than 15 pages—and all are accompanied by a Teaching Note that provides instructional guidance. Case Startup Kits are available in 9 disciplines, with more disciplines coming soon.

# Case Startup Kits include the following case method resources:

- The "Hints for Case Teaching" downloadable PDF
- Video clips providing advice for first-time case teachers
- The Teaching Post Educator Forum, where instructors ask questions and give advice
- The Case Analysis Coach for students new to case learning

#### Recommended cases for Accounting include:

Biovail Corporation: Revenue Recognition and FOB Sales Harvard Business School #4011

Domestic Auto Parts Harvard Business School # 105078

Financial Reporting Problems at Molex, Inc. (A) Harvard Business School #105082

Merrimack Tractors and Mowers, Inc.: LIFO or FIFO? HBS Brief Case #3217

See the full Case Startup Kit for Accounting: hbsp.harvard.edu/list/casestartupacct



Ideal for instructors new to case method teaching

Recommends cases to use as an instructor's "first case"

Includes cases selected for their brevity, teachability, and Teaching Notes

# Case Analysis Coach

# **IDEAL FOR STUDENTS NEW TO CASE LEARNING**

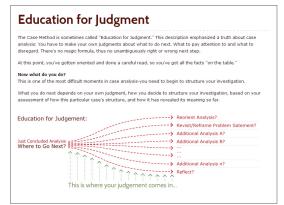
The Case Analysis Coach is a self-paced tutorial that offers a concise introduction to the key concepts required for the analysis of business case studies. Delivered entirely online, the tutorial offers a framework that will prepare students for situations including formal presentations, written reports, "cold calls" during classroom discussion, and final exams.

The tutorial requires students to interpret both qualitative and quantitative data and develop short- and long-term action recommendations. It also includes a Case Analysis Worksheet that students can use repeatedly to analyze actual cases assigned for coursework.



Seat Time: 30-120 minutes (depending on the depth of analysis

desired) #4380



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