Credit Report Code Cheat Sheet

KEEP IT NEXT TO YOUR REPORT · LESSON 2 BONUS

These are the codes Experian lists in its legend. Equifax and TransUnion show the same ideas, sometimes with different symbols or colors, so check the legend on your own report too.

Payment history codes

OK	Paid on time that month
30–180	That many days past the due date
ND or -	No data reported that month
CLS	Closed
C	In collection
CO	Charge-off: written off as a loss. Still owed.
D	Defaulted on the contract
BK	Included in a bankruptcy
R	Repossession
VS	Voluntary surrender
FS / F	Foreclosure started / foreclosed
G	Claim filed with the government
IC	Insurance claim
PBC	Paid by creditor

Status words

Open / Current	Active, up to date
Paid, never late	Paid off, no lates
Closed	By you or the lender
Charge-off	Written off. Still owed.
Paid charge-off	Charged off, later paid
Collection	Handed to a collector
Transferred / sold	Moved to another company
Refinanced	Replaced by a new loan
Authorized user	Someone else's account you're on

What "30 days late" means

The count starts on the **due date**. Due March 1 and paid March 10? Nothing shows (maybe a late fee). Still unpaid March 31: **30**. Around April 30: **60**. Around May 30: **90**. One payment behind = 30, two = 60, three = 90.

The rolling late trap

Miss one payment, then pay on time every month after, and you're still one behind. The account can show **30 late every month** until you catch up the missed payment. Can't catch up? Call the lender and ask about moving it to the end of the loan, waiving fees, or a hardship plan.

Dates that matter

Date of first delinquency starts the clock: most negatives can stay 7 years from it, bankruptcies up to 10. **A sale or a new collector doesn't restart the clock.** A newer date than when you first fell behind is called re-aging, and it isn't allowed.

Get it in writing. Always.

If it's not in writing, it doesn't exist. Any deal with a lender or collector: get an email, a letter or a chat printout, and save it. Found a mistake? You can dispute it for free with the bureau and the company that reported it.

Highlighter key Yellow = doesn't look right Green = need to look into this

UP NEXT

Lesson 3: Why the dealer's score doesn't match your app

There isn't one credit score. There's a whole family of them, and the one a lender pulls depends on what you're applying for. Learn how scores are calculated and which one gets used for what. **Free at scoreminders.com**

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