


## Speculative Risk vs. Pure Risk

- There are two types of risks: speculative risk vs. pure risk.
- So far we have been dealing with speculative risks - all investment risks are speculative risks, in that one can either gain or lose as a result
- In this unit we will deal with pure risks. Pure risks are those risks where only a loss can occur if the event happens.


## Some technical terms

- Insured:
- The insured is the person who is covered by the life insurance. The death of the insured is the coverage event.
- Owner:
- The owner pays the premium for the policy. Typically the insured and the owner is the same person.
- Beneficiaries:
- Beneficiaries are the people who will receive the proceeds of the life insurance policy if the insured were to die
- Face value:
- The policy face value is the amount of life insurance purchased, which is the money beneficiaries will receive in the event of the death of the insured.
- Premium:
- Price paid by the owner for the life insurance policy. Premiums can be paid monthly, quarterly, or yearly.
- Cash value:
- The value in a permanent life insurance policy that can be withdrawn if the policy is surrendered. The cash value also indicates how much can be borrowed against the policy by the policy holder.


## How much life insurance does one need?

- There are two approaches to determine the amount of life insurance needed
- The income approach (also called the 'replacement income approach"):
- This approach calculates the life insurance face value amount as the investment funds necessary to replace the insured's future income that is not replaced by other sources of income such as Social Security Survivor's benefits.
- The expense approach (also called the "need" approach"):
- This approach computes the life insurance face value needed to pay for the expected expenses of the beneficiaries that won't be covered by other sources of income.


## The Income Approach to Life

## Insurance Needs

- An example is used to illustrate this approach.
- John Doe, age 43, earns $\$ 70,000$ annually and expects to receive pay raises of $2 \%$ per year after inflation. John has three financial dependents: his wife Jan and two children, 12 and 10 .
- From his annual Social Security statement, John finds out that Social Security will pay $\$ 3000$ a month to his wife and children when both children are under the age of $18, \$ 2500$ a month when one child is under 18 , and o when both children are 18 .
- The Doe family has $\$ 10,000$ in savings which will be applied to replace some of John's future income.
- John wants a life insurance face value amount which will replace $80 \%$ of his future real income until the youngest child reaches the age of 18 .


The Expense Approach to Life Insurance Needs

- This approach uses a 6-step process to compute life insurance needs based on the future net expenses of the beneficiaries.
- We will use the same example of John Doe's family.



## Inflation Effect and Term Effect

- In both the income and expense approaches all money numbers and discount rates are in real terms, in that they have been adjusted for inflation.
- There is another complication caused by inflation
- As the insured lives an additional year, inflation has occurred during that year This increase all future projected expenses.
- The face value would have kept up with the inflation if it had been invested. But
it was not since the insured lived.
- The face value is now inadequate to cover the higher future expenses. This is called the inflation effect.
- Counterbalancing the inflation effect is the term effect, in that as the insured lives a year longer, there is one less year of coverage needed.
When the inflation rate is low, the term effect is larger than the inflation effect so overall the face value provides adequate coverage. If the inflation rate if very high, the inflation effect is larger than the term effect so face value is no longer adequate. There are policy options one can choose to deal with this issue, such as buy a cost-of-living rider so the face value is adjusted for inflation.



## A Note on Estimating Life Insurance Needs

- The expense approach I give here is slightly different from the example given in the textbook. I assume no debt and mortgage does not need to be paid off, while the textbook example assumes mortgage and all debts will be paid off using life insurance proceeds.
- If college education needs are taken into consideration, the expense approach will typically generate a larger face value amount.
- Income tax is not taken into consideration here. These two examples are more conceptual than practical. In real planning, more factors will need to be considered.
- In real world the life insurance term is likely to be much longer as one need to have life insurance when the children are born.

Types of Life Insurance Policies There are several ways to group life insurance policies.

- One way is to group policies into
- Temporary (protection for a specified period of time)
- Permanent (protection for one's entire life)
- Another way is to group policies by
- Protection only
- Protection + Investment
- From the point of view of economic comparison, the second method of grouping makes more sense.


## Basic Types of Protection-Only Policies

- Renewable Term
- Renewable term plans give you the right to renew for another period when a term ends, regardless of the state of your health. With each new term the premium is increased.
- Level Term

Under a level term policy the face amount of the policy remains the same for the entire period. The premium stays the same each year.

- Decreasing Term

With decreasing term the face amount reduces over the period. The premium stays the same each year.

- Adjustable Premium
- Adjustable premium insurance allows insurers to offer insurance at lower "current" premiums based upon less conservative assumptions however, can never be more than the maximum guaranteed premiums stated in the policy

In-between "Protection Only" and
"Protection+Investment"

- Convertible Term
- Convertible term policies often permit you to exchange the policy for a whole life plan. You must exercise this option during the conversion period.


## Basic Types of

"Protection+Investment" Policies

- Non-Participating Whole Life
- Gives a level premium and face amount during your entire life. No dividends paid.
- Participating Whole Life
- Pays dividends. The dividends represent the favorable experience of the company and result from excess investment earnings, favorable mortality and expense savings. Dividends are not guaranteed.
- Modified or Graded Premium Whole Life
- Modified whole life: Lower premiums for the first several years, and then increase to a higher constant level.
Graded premium whole life: Lower premiums first, gradually increase for several years to a higher constant level.


## Types of "Protection+lnvestment" Policies - Cont'd

- Economatic Whole Life
- Provides for a basic amount of participating whole life insurance with an additional supplemental coverage provided through the use of dividends.
Limited Payment Whole Life
- Gives lifetime protection but requires only a limited number of prenium payments. Because the premiums are paid over a shorter span of time, the premium payments will be higher than under other whole life plans.
- Single Premium Whole Life
- It's a limited payment life where one large premium payment is made. The policy is fully paid up and no further premiums are required.
Indexed Whole Life
- Face value increases with inflation rate. Premiums are handled in two ways: increasing or leveling. This type of whole life can be used to deal with the inflation effect of life insurance, discussed earlier

Types of "Protection+lnvestment"
Policies - Cont'd

- Universal Life
- A combination of term life insurance plus a side investment fund which earns a current competitive interest rate
Is the most flexible of all the various kinds of policies. Universal life allows you to change or skip premium payments or change the death benefit more easily
than with any other policy. than with any other policy
- Variable Universal Life
-     - Universal life where face amount and cash value are specified in units, and the value of the units may increase or decrease depending upon the investment

Single Premium Whole Life

- One upfront premium payment, determined using the current interest rate assumption. You may be asked to make additional premium payments or coverage could terminate because the interest rate dropped.
- Endowment Life

Endowment life pays the face value amount to the beneficiaries if the insured dies, but will also pay the face amount to the insured if the insured lives to a certain age

## Fixed-dollar vs. Variable Basis

- Most types of "protection+investment" policies can be purchased on either a fixed-dollar or variable basis.
- On a fixed-dollar basis, premium, face amount and cash values are specified in dollar amounts.
- On the variable basis, face amount and cash value are specified in units, and the value of the units may increase or decrease depending upon the investment results. You can allocate your money market mutual funds and real estate pools) depending the amount of risk you are willing to assume in the hope of a high return.
- Traditional variable life provides a minimum guaranteed death benefit, but many universal variable life products do not, and should investment experience be bad, coverage will terminate if substantially higher premium payments are not made.


## A Note on Types of Life Insurance Policies

- If you surf the web you will find many more permutations of life insurance policies with various specification of premiums structure, interest rate, and face value combinations.
- Keep in mind that while specific products can be endless, the basic structure of all life insurance policies are similar.
- The key in this class is to understand the principle of life insurance instead of trying to get into the details of each specific policy.
- However when making specific decisions, one does need to look into the fine prints, and apply the principles we learned in this class to these specific cases.


## How are Life Insurance Premiums

## Calculated?

- Basic principle of insurance
- PV (Premiums) = PV (Expected Benefits)
- Expected benefits = Probability of death * Face value of the policy
- Probability of death comes from the mortality table.
- For the 2004 mortality table (by gender) see
http://www.ssa.gov/OACT/STATS/table4c6.html


## An Example of an Renewable Term Life Insurance

- Term insurance is plain life insurance with no frills. We will use term insurance as an example to show how premiums are determined.
John is 35 and wants to buy \$200,000 life insurance for one year What will be the annual premium?
- Looking at the mortality table for 2004 (It's normal to have a delay
of data publication), John's probably of death is 0.001666 .
The expected benefit for John for a $\$ 200,000$ policy would be: $0.001666 * 200000=\$ 332$
- If John were 55 years old, how much would the premium be?
- If John were 55, the probability of death is 0.007921
- Expected benefit $=0.007921^{*} 200000=\$ 1,584$
- Typically a service fee will be added to each year's expected benefit.


An Example of a Traditional Participating
Whole Life Policy: $\$ 100,000$ Face Value

| Age Premiums Dividend: Net Premiums Cash Value |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 35 | \$1,316 | so | \$1,316 | \$0 |
| 36 | \$1,316 | \$151 | \$1,165 |  |
| 37 | \$1,316 | \$189 | \$1,127 | \$500 |
| 38 | \$1,316 | \$231 | \$1,085 | \$1,500 |
| 39 | \$1,316 | \$273 | \$1,043 | \$2,600 |
| 40 | \$1,316 | \$322 | \$994 | \$3,740 |
| 41 | \$1,316 | \$371 | \$945 | \$4,880 |
| 42 | \$1,316 | \$420 | \$896 | \$6,020 |
| 43 | \$1,316 | \$469 | \$847 | \$7,160 |
| 44 | \$1,316 | \$518 | \$798 | \$8,300 |
| 45 | \$1,316 | \$581 | \$735 | \$9,500 |
| 46 | \$1,316 | \$644 | \$672 | \$10,700 |
| 47 | \$1,316 | \$707 | \$609 | \$11,900 |
| 48 | \$1,316 | \$770 | \$546 | \$13,100 |
| 49 | \$1,316 | \$834 | \$482 | \$14,300 |
| 50 | \$1,316 | \$909 | \$407 | \$15,480 |
| 51 | \$1,316 | \$984 | 5332 | \$16,660 |
| 52 | \$1,316 | \$1,059 | \$257 | \$17,840 |
| 53 | \$1,316 | \$1,134 | \$182 | \$19,020 |
| 54 | \$1,316 | \$1,213 | \$103 | \$20,200 |

Only the first 20 years of
the policy are shown.
Premium is constant over time.

- Policy is participating, as most whole life policies are.
- Net premium = Premium Dividends
- Cash value is not taxed unless the policy is cancelled.


## An Example of Universal Life (UL)

Insurance

- Universal Life is a type of "protection+investment" life insurance. The policy is established with the insurer where premium payments above the cost of insurance are credited to the cash value.
- The cash value is credited each month with interest, and the policy is debited each month by a cost of insurance (COI) charge, which is drawn from the cash value if no premium payment is made that month
- The interest credited to the account is determined by the insurer; often it is pegged to a financial index
Because only the amount of interest credited and not the cash valu itself varies, UL policies offer a stable investment option.
- There are two types of UL policies: Option A and Option B.

Option A: Death benefit is constant for most of UL life, then rises only
when the investment fund exceeds the original death benefits.
Option B: Death benefit is the sum of an original fixed benefit plus the investment fund.

- Surrender charges occur if the policyholder cancels the policy or withdraws some of the investment funds.
- Loads are fees taken off the top of each premium payment. Typically higher for the first year and a lower load for the subsequent years
Partial surrender: Some of the investment funds in UL policies can be directly withdrawn by the policyholder. This is called a "partial surrender".
- Loans: Loans can be taken against UL policies (just like the traditional whole life policies). The term "net cost of borrowing" (e.g. 2\%) refers to the difference between the interest earned in the UL investment funds (e.g. 6\%) and the interest charged for the loan (e.g. 8\%).



## How to Compare Life Insurance

 Policies?- To compare different life insurance policies, we can convert all net premiums to either present value or future value. Because the life insurance industry uses the FV approach, we will use it here as well.
- The industry name for this FV called "interestadjusted net cost".
- An "interest-adjusted net cost index" is also used, which is
- Interest-adjusted net cost / FVF sum

An Example of UL

- With option B the death benefit increases with the investment value.
- The investment value, however, is lower than in Option A.
- Male,45, non-smoking \$100,ooo face value
Top part of the table shows rate of return on investment at $4 \%$, the bottom part of the table investment at $10.5 \%$
Note when the inter
rate is higher, the cash value (investment value) of the policy is larger


An Example of Comparing Two Term Policies

- Suppose there are two 10-year term policies with $\$ 100,000$ face value, one charges $\$ 180$ constant premium every year, while the other has the regular increasing premium (see next slide). Which one is cheaper?
- Answer:
- First one needs to choose a term of comparison. In this case the term is 10 years.
- Second one needs to choose an investment interest rate for comparison. In this case we choose $4 \%$.
- Next one computes the future value of all premiums.



An Example Computing Interest-Adjusted Net Cost for a Whole Life Policy

- The computation of interest-adjusted net cost for a whole life policy is similar to a term policy, but with one major difference:
- After the sum of the interest adjusted net premiums are found, the cash value at the end of the term is subtracted.
- For whole life policies, the interest-adjusted net cost is also called "surrender cost".


Tax Advantages of Life Insurance Policies

- No taxes are paid on death benefits.
- Interest earned on policies with investment funds is not taxed while left untouched - works like a IRA.

