BEST PRACTICE REVIEW

DIGITAL ONBOARDING

Contents.

Introduction

N5 has deep, domain knowledge and experience of financial services gained from working with some of the world's most innovative financial services organisations.

We have developed a unique benchmarking system that scores propositions in financial services across more than 100 different features to identify the most innovative thinking and best practices.

Organisations with higher scores are delivering superior experiences to their customers, and are great examples for other organisations to learn how their own propositions could be enhanced and differentiated.

This document is focused on the onboarding journey, the critical first experience for customers taking out new products and services with organisations.

N5 approach to best practice reviews

N5 reviews the worldwide marketplace for providers that stand out because of what they are doing, the way they do it or the recognition they are getting.

Then, publicly-available information is used to analyse each provider's proposition and identify features and processes from a customer perspective.

Next, each of the features and process steps are rated using N5's proprietary scorecard, which assigns points based on whether the feature is present and how well it's been implemented.

Finally, we showcase the best of the best and describe why it represents best practice.

Onboarding

A critical customer experience

What is onboarding?

Onboarding is the process of getting new customers to 'first value' as quickly as possible when they decide to sign up for a new product or service with an organisation. Digital onboarding is when this process is entirely online or via mobile.

It takes the customer through a series of steps that establish the information required for them to benefit from the product or service, whilst ensuring compliance with regulatory, legal and commercial requirements.

In financial services the onboarding process typically encompasses everything from initial application form, disclosure, identity checks and contract, to welcome communications, first time use and check-ups.

The process can be a combination of automated and manual steps that are necessary to ensure compliance with commercial, legal and regulatory practices such as Know Your Customer and Anti-Money Laundering.

The onboarding honeymoon

Onboarding starts the moment a potential customer considers a product and ends when they feel the product has satisfied their initial expectations of it.

Some organisations have fixed periods for this time such as 90 days, but from a customer perspective it will vary by individual.

We think of this period as the honeymoon - the first, real experience the potential customer has of the organisation and it sets the perception, mood and expectations of the relationship going forward.

A good experience during the honeymoon will help the relationship last longer and generate more value than a bad experience...and it's unlikely you will get a second chance to make a good first impression.

The experience disconnect

Perceptions of customer experiences differ, with 80% of businesses believing they provide superior service to their customers, whilst only 8% of customers say they receive it. In fact, only 1% of customers feel that businesses consistently meet their expectations. This creates a value delivery gap of over 70% between companies and customers.

80%

"DELIVERY GAP"

8%

Percentage of companies believing they provide superior experiences

Percentage of customers agreeing that those companies provide superior experiences
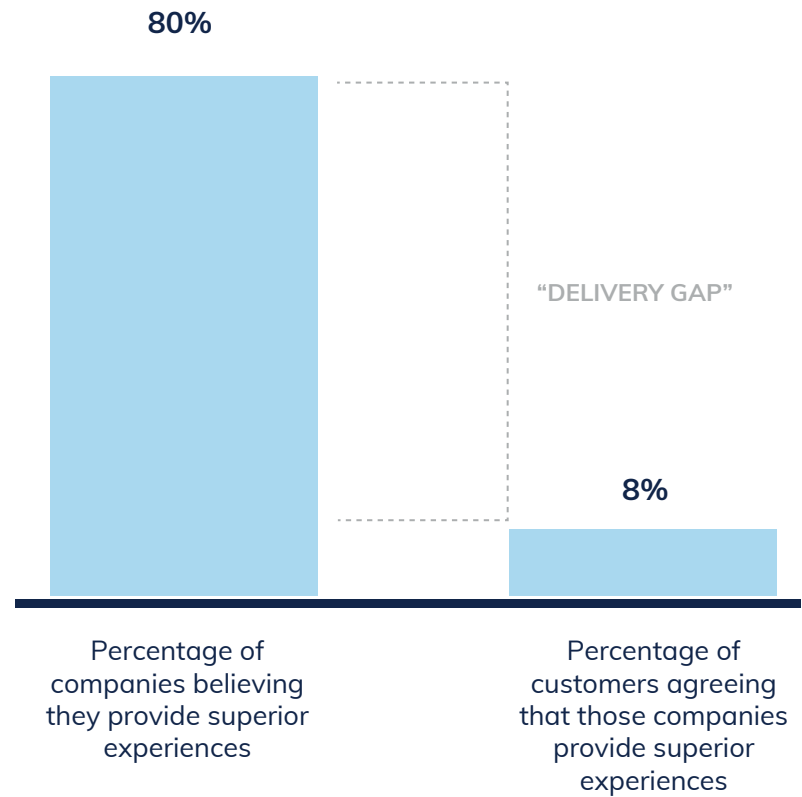
Digital hasn't replaced human interactions

80% of banking touchpoints occur on digital channels*

72% of consumers want an all-digital onboarding system**

75% of financial product sales are through non-digital channels*

37% of financial services customers purchasing in branch said it was easier to talk to a representative***

36% of financial services customers purchasing in branch said they wanted to be able to talk to someone if there was a problem***

27% of financial services customers purchasing in branch said they wanted to confirm their understanding of product and service options***

How consumers have interacted with their banking provider in past two years ****
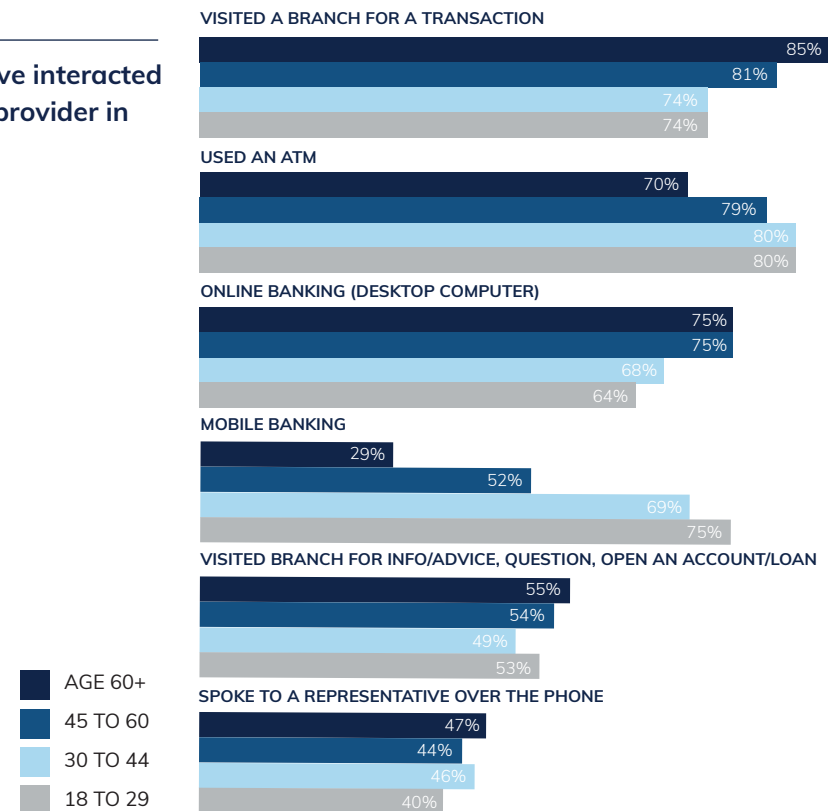
AGE 60+
45 TO 60
30 TO 44
18 TO 29

VISITED A BRANCH FOR A TRANSACTION
- 85%
- 81%
- 74%
- 74%

USED AN ATM
- 70%
- 79%
- 80%
- 80%

ONLINE BANKING (DESKTOP COMPUTER)
- 75%
- 75%
- 68%
- 64%

MOBILE BANKING
- 29%
- 52%
- 69%
- 75%

VISITED BRANCH FOR INFO/ADVICE, QUESTION, OPEN AN ACCOUNT/LOAN
- 55%
- 54%
- 49%
- 53%

SPOKE TO A REPRESENTATIVE OVER THE PHONE
- 47%
- 44%
- 46%
- 40%

Onboarding challenges

Whilst new-entrant digital financial organisations have been able to more easily streamline their onboarding processes, established financial institutions have found it challenging to keep up because of the complexity of combining their legacy systems with new digital capabilities.

In retail financial institutions:

81% believe poor data management lengthens onboarding and negatively affects customer experience*

84% believe the client experience during the onboarding process impacts the lifetime value of the client*

42% of commercial banks have lost a client or prospect due to inefficient or slow onboarding processes*

50% do not tailor their products and services to the needs of customers**

70% do not organise their business to deliver superior customer experiences**

70% do not maintain effective customer feedback loops**

The impact of bad experience

74%

of consumers are extremely likely to switch brands if they find the purchasing process too difficult*

24%

of consumers describe financial services applications as difficult or painful to complete**

14min. 20sec.

The average time taken before giving up on an application altogether**

50%

of consumers are extremely likely to switch if a brand doesn't provide an easy to use mobile experience*

29%

of applications take more than 20 minutes to complete**

* https://www.salesforce.com/form/pdf/state-of-the-connected-customer.
** https://www.signicat.com/resources/european-financial-institutions-losing-almost-40-of-applicants-during-digital-on-boarding

The cost of bad experience:
money left on the table

Abandoned applications leave money on the table because an organisation's marketing and advertising have reached the target audience and they are willing to sign up, but at the last step they lose them because of a poor user experience.

38% of potential customers abandon their attempt to sign up for a retail bank accounts, credit cards and insurance*

The most often cited reasons for abandoning a financial services application are**:

Reason	%
The amount of information I'm asked to provide	30%
Having to visit a physical branch as part of the application	28% ***
Scanning or uploading documents to prove my identity	16%
The time required to complete the application process	16%
Not having the correct documents I need to prove my identity	13%
An app or website's sign up process was confusing or difficult	7%
Lack of support over live chat or telephone during the process	6%

The benefits of good experience:
customer loyalty and increased value

For every one-point increase in customer onboarding satisfaction on a **ten-point** net promoter score (NPS) scale, there is at least a **three-percent** increase in revenue growth.
McKinsey

Customer experience leaders grow revenues **4% – 8%** above their market.
Bain & Co

Customer experience leaders achieved compound average revenue growth of **17%** over five years. The CX laggards achieved just **3%** growth during the same period.
Forrester

Across industries, satisfied customers spend more and stay more loyal over time. In banking, customers are **seven times** more likely to increase their deposits and **twice** as likely to open an additonal account if they rate a bank as excellent rather than average.
McKinsey

In financial services, a **5%** increase in customer retention produces more than a **25%** increase in profit.
Bain & Co

https://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/marketing-and-sales/our-insights/from-touchpoints-to-journeys-seeing-the-world-as-customers-do
https://go.forrester.com/blogs/16-06-21-customer_experience_drives_revenue_growth_2016/
http://www.bain.com/publications/articles/the-five-disciplines-of-customer-experience-leaders.aspx
http://www2.bain.com/Images/BB_Prescription_cutting_costs.pdf

Onboarding digital design principles

N5 design principles for digital onboarding
in financial services

Digital onboarding design principles

In the following pages N5 presents eight principles to consider when developing or enhancing a digital customer onboarding journey.

1. Don't follow the hype

2. Go really digital: Open products online

3. Select mutually beneficial features

4. It's not just about design: Follow our 10 guidelines for success

5. Make your mum proud: Treat your digital customers well

6. Have an experimentation culture: Customer needs change faster than your boss' ideas

7. Raise your game: Your customers have been spoilt by other retail experiences

8. Copying is OK: Just make sure it's the best for your customers and business

How N5 can help you apply these principles:

· Evaluating your business processes and recommending opportunities for improvement.

· Creating an end-to-end journey that your customers will love.

· Designing customer-facing screens for web and mobile apps.

· Implementing sophisticated technology to enable best practice processes and decisions.

To arrange your free, no-obligation assessment please send an email to JulianHelpMeWithMyOnboarding@n5now.com.
Or scan the QR code on this page.

Principle #1:
Don't follow the hype

In a book about best practice it may seem strange to say this, but N5 believes organisations should not blindly follow the hype of trying to delight customers at every opportunity during the digital onboarding process.

In financial services the benchmark for a great experience should not be to win awards, but to make customer's lives easier in our complex, digital world. Onboarding with a brand is something most customers only do once in their life so, simplicity is critical to helping them through the process without abandoning.

However, we also know that simplicity is the most complicated feature for any organisation to create and implement. It takes a deep understanding of customer needs, behaviour and user design experience to fully realise the best possible journey. When the most important elements are in place, those next generation technologies can be brought in to really over-deliver value to your customers.

Customers may not expect to be wowed by their financial service provider, but if it makes their lives easier and simpler, then they are more likely to tell their friends.

Principle #2:
Go really digital: Open products online

Customers recognise that financial services products are complex and when they want to open a new product they expect it to involve a rigorous process. What they don't expect is for the process to be lengthy and involve painful application forms that are submitted into an offline process for approval and fulfilment.

The onboarding process should be digitally enabled from end-to-end with no mandatory customer hand-offs to other channels to complete the process. We think it is better to offer just a few products that can be fully opened immediately online than offering all products with offline fulfilment.

For example, if an online product onboarding process requires a physical branch visit then customers may as well just go to the branch to start and complete the process. The branch staff are also more likely to be able to solve any problems or answer any questions the customer may have about the product or service.

Focus on creating a fully digital end-to-end onboarding process of essential features that minimise product and service complexity for the customer and providing immediate customer assistance when needed.

Principle #3:

Select mutually beneficial features

Delighting customers can quickly reach a point of diminishing returns so, it's a good idea to consider whether a feature is mutually beneficial to both the customer and the business. The digital environment makes it easy to measure the effect on customer experience and business KPIs. There are 3 types of feature:

Essentials are the basic experiences that the business must get right. When these don't meet expectations they are the greatest cause of bad experience, but exceeding the customer's expectations is unlikely to create a better experience

Differentiators are the experiences that compel a customer to select one brand over another. When these don't meet expectations they can cause a significantly bad experience, whereas exceeding the customer's expectations could create a good experience

Delighters are the experiences that delight the customer, but only when the overall customer experience is good because one delight doesn't outweigh an otherwise bad experience. Using these too often will have diminishing returns over time as customers adjust to expect them

Principle #4:
It's not just about design: Follow our 10 guidelines for success

Design with your customers, not just for them
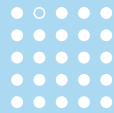
Cater for different types of user, not just the average

Adapt the process around your customers, not force your customers to adapt around the process

Select features that help customers complete the process the quickest and easiest, not that are the latest fad or might win awards

Set expectations about the process and show them where they are in the process

123

Make each step as simple as possible, not overwhelm the customer and ask them to do too much

Only capture data that adds value to the customer or the organisation

Highlight important elements and instructions during the process to show the customer what to do next

Use visualisations and videos to explain the process and how to get started

Don't assume design is finished, constantly learn from customer feedback and improve

Principle #5:
Make your mum proud: Treat your digital customers well

Don't actively try to delight your customers, solve their issues first	Show your appreciation for their business, not as just another sale
Create emotional connections with customers, not treat them like a number	Build trust and engagement before selling additional products and services
It's a learning process so, start simple and explain vocabulary and concepts that may be new to potential customers	Suggest complementary products and services that would add value for the customer
Follow up abandoned applications quickly - it's not the end of the opportunity	Don't try cross selling before the sign up process is complete
Communicate when the customer expects it, but don't bombard them, or ignore them, either	Focus on ease and quality of process rather than speed of conversion

Principle #6:

Have an experimentation culture: Customer needs change faster than your boss' ideas

Two of the biggest impediments to onboarding success are not getting started - trying to 'boil the ocean' - and not having the right culture in the organisation.

Starting out with the intention of building the perfect onboarding process is likely to take a very long time and will probably fail. Instead, aim for the minimum viable digital process that delivers essential customer features and then use agile methodologies to enhance and build incremental features.

Introducing a customer-focused experimentation culture into the organisation will contribute to overall profitability, particularly when someone is appointed to own, maintain and continuously adapt the process to customer needs. Each planned feature is trialled with customers through a test & learn approach, and the learnings used to refine the feature and help build a more robust and customer-oriented journey.

Principle #7:

Raise your game: Your customers have been trained by other retail experiences

The financial services view of digital transformation has typically been driven by the desire to reduce cost-to-serve by migrating low-value transactions to self-service channels. These digitalised processes are often benchmarked through customer feedback scores and compared against the competition.

However, customers are more likely to compare their financial services experiences with their experiences of non-financial retailers like Amazon and Netflix, which set the bar extraordinarily high for others to beat. This means customers are subconsciously being 'trained' to expect ever-greater levels of service in all parts of their lives.

This constant, creeping, customer experience revolution is not a new challenge: In the late 1970s, banks and airlines led the way in 24/7 call centre services, forcing other sectors, such as energy companies and retailers, to catch up and provide similar capabilities. This was not because it was necessary, but because it was the new expectation.

Today, many financial institutions, particularly pure-digital new-entrants, are playing catch-up and offering similar onboarding experiences to the likes of Netflix. This may seem an unfair comparison when Netflix is not in a highly regulated market and is not forced to go through stringent checks to allow its customers to buy their products, but it is a rule of the expectation game.

Principle #8:

Copying is OK: Just make sure it's the best for your customers and business

In the following section we've identified a set of best practice ideas exhibited by organisations around the world that provide what we believe are great experiences for their customers.

If you are tempted to copy and paste any of the best practices into your business then please be warned that they may not be as simple to implement as they look, and that sometimes they can have unintended consequences on your customers and business!

In our experience best practice is not a one-size-fits-all solution – it's merely an inspiring start point. Each practice needs to be carefully tailored and applied to your specific business in a way that is viable and appropriate for your brand, market and customers.

N5 has the expertise, capabilities and experience to help financial services organisations make the right choices and implement the best end-to-end processes that are inspired and driven by these best practices.

Onboarding best practice

N5 best practices for digital onboarding
in financial services

Best practice for digital onboarding

In the following pages N5 presents 7 best practices for onboarding that were identified during the market review of financial services organisations across the world. There are also example screens that demonstrate the best practices exhibited by some of those organisations.

How N5 can help you apply these best practices:
· Evaluating your business processes and recommending opportunities for improvement.
· Creating an end-to-end journey that your customers will love.
· Designing customer-facing screens for web and mobile apps.
· Implementing sophisticated technology to enable best practice processes and decisions.

To arrange your free, no-obligation assessment please send an email to JulianHelpMeWithMyOnboarding@n5now.com. Or scan the QR code on this page.

1. Think Mobile First, even on the desktop

2. Give customers a nudge into the journey

3. Sell the end game benefits at the front door

4. Make the experience like a 'first-date to marriage in 10 minutes'

5. Don't be intrusive: Respect your customer's privacy

6. Motivate the customer throughout the process

7. Be ready to hold their hand

Best Practice #1:

Think mobile first, even on the desktop

Quite often, desktop and mobile user website experiences are very different. They can look visually different, which makes it hard for customers to transition between channels, or they can look the same, but not consider the nuances of the different user environments.

The best experiences are those where the desktop and mobile websites are both based on Mobile First design principles.

Mobile First is a set of principles that assume smartphones, tablets and task-specific apps are the customers' primary tools for getting things done, for example: Data capture is minimised; Options are simple toggles, buttons and pre-populated lists; Keyboard text input is minimised; Imagery and graphics are optimised for fast loading and quality of experience; Scrolling is minimised; Device capabilities can be integrated, e.g. photo and video.

N5 believes these principles should apply to both mobile and desktop user journeys, and that the design process should start with mobile onboarding and then replicate the experience in the desktop version through, for example, responsive web design. This ensures the design follows the simplicity of the Mobile First principles irrespective of the environment, and creates the best possible user experience.

Best Practice #1 examples:
Think mobile first, even on the desktop
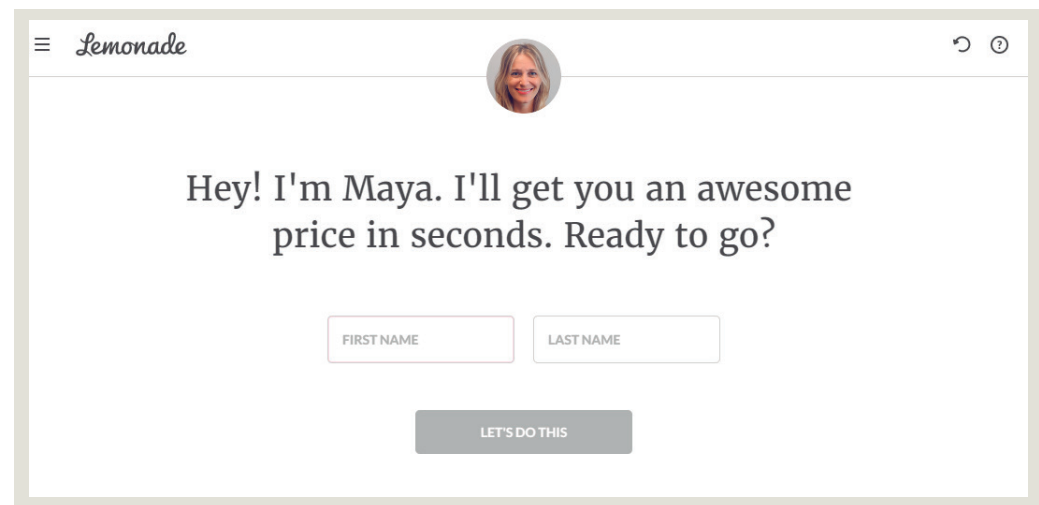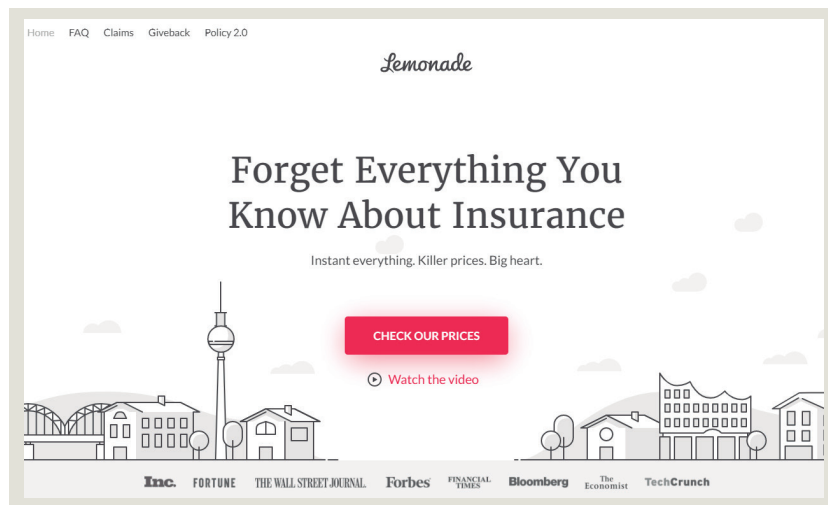
LEMONADE, Consumer Insurance, US
Simple, responsive interface on the website for both mobile and desktop. The call to action and navigation buttons are high contrast to make it easy to see what to do next, whereas imagery is kept to a minimum so the customer doesn't get distracted.

Best Practice #1 examples:
Think mobile first, even on the desktop
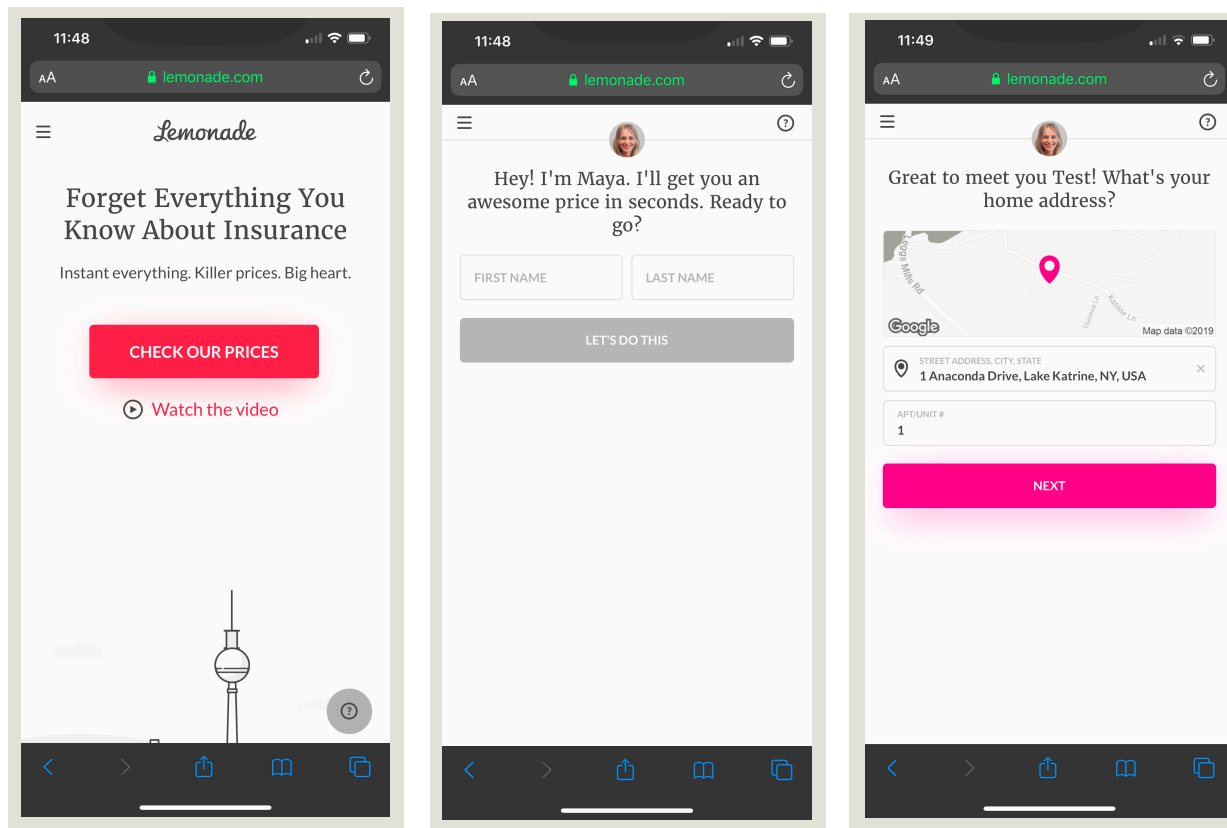
LEMONADE, Consumer Insurance, US
The simple, responsive interface on mobile feels identical to the web version. The process is kept simple with only one question per page and selectable answers, which makes it easier for the customer to respond using a mobile device. Lemonade also use the customer's name to make the process feel more personal.

Best Practice #1 examples:
Think mobile first, even on the desktop

N26, Consumer Banking, UK
Responsive mobile first onboarding process with minimal scrolling and only the most relevant information shown. Highly visual, minimal text and the CTAs (Call to Actions) are clearly marked.

Best Practice #1 examples:

Think mobile first, even on the desktop

Best Practice #1 examples:
Think mobile first, even on the desktop

OPENBANK, Consumer Banking, Spain
Responsive screen design keeps the mobile
and desktop version consistent, convenient
and easy to use. Clear and high contrast calls
to action requiring just a single click or tap to
start sign up.

Best Practice #1 examples:
Think mobile first, even on the desktop
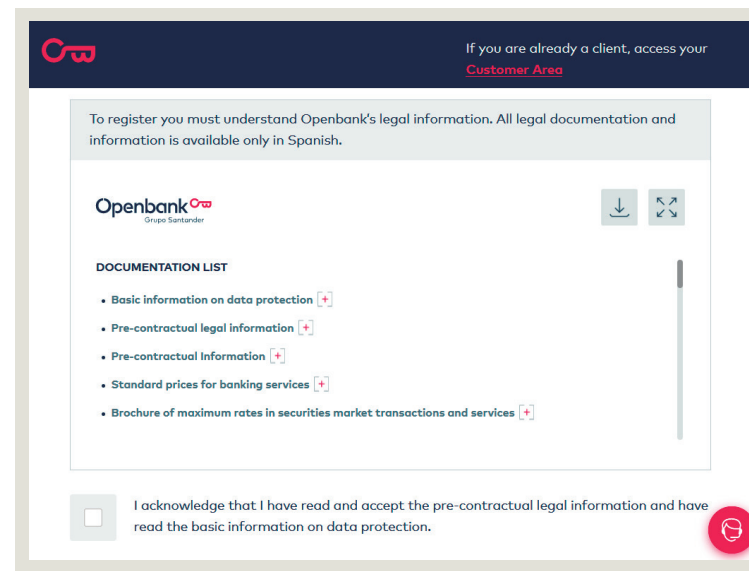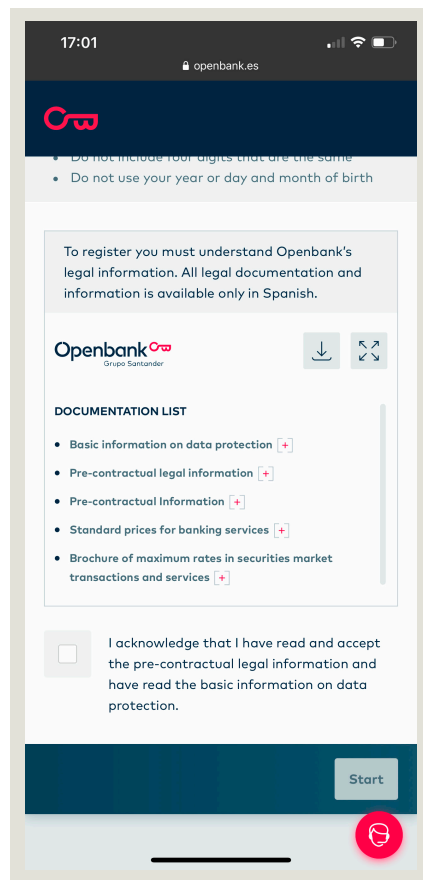
OPENBANK, Consumer Banking, Spain
Mobile First design requires minimal text entry with most data captured through simple selectors or buttons. A single tap or click is required to download and acknowledge the terms and conditions, and to request call-back support.
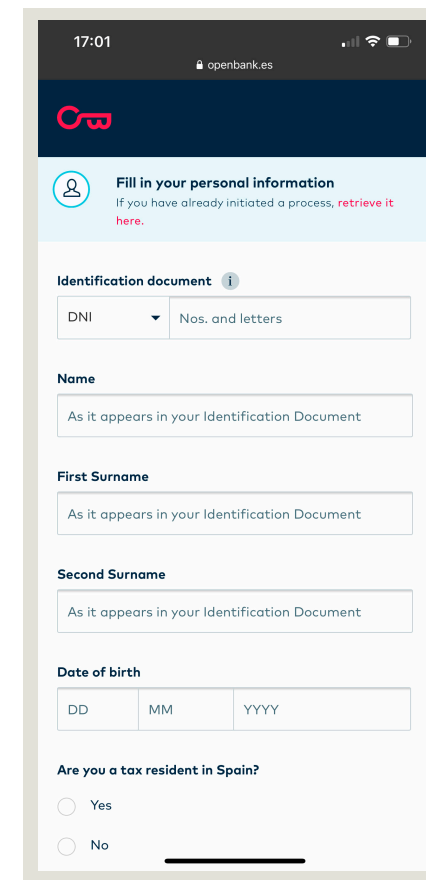
Best Practice #1 examples:
Think mobile first, even on the desktop

SCOTIABANK, Consumer Banking, Canada
Very clear, responsive design with just one topic per page. There are clear navigation buttons with 'continue' presented in high contrast so the customer is in no doubt what to do next. Once into the main process, imagery is removed so the customer doesn't get distracted.

Best Practice #1 examples:
Think mobile first, even on the desktop

CHIME, Consumer Banking, USA
Responsive onboarding with both mobile and desktop versions featuring clean, simple design, with minimal scrolling, only the most relevant information shown and clear call to actions.

Best Practice #2:
Give customers a nudge into the journey

How easy is it for customers to sign up? If the customer has already made the choice to join the organisation as a customer then we don't want to make it hard for them to start the sign-up process by having to hunt for the right button or right way to do it.

Often, the 'apply now', 'sign up', 'join' or 'start' button is buried at the bottom of a product page, which is a natural flow for first time users reviewing product information, but users often leave the site and then come back at another time to sign-up. They won't be experts so, ensure the process is intuitive and that 'calls to action' are clear and easy to find.

Whilst incorporating onboarding functionality into a mobile app is a good idea, it requires a lot of extra functionality that is typically used only once by each customer and is, therefore, 'throw-away'. There may be clever ways to 'unload' the throw-away functionality once onboarding is complete, but it still adds unnecessary complexity to the app. The initial steps of the onboarding process may be better suited to a responsive web experience before handing off to an app to complete the onboarding journey.

Similarly, the customer is often invited to 'download the app from the app store', only to discover they can't try or use it until they've registered for online banking…and they can't register until they've opened an account. A better experience is to start the onboarding journey on the web and introduce the app as part of the process so that the customer is shown when and how to download, enrol and then activate the product through the app.

Best Practice #2 examples:

Give customers a nudge into the journey
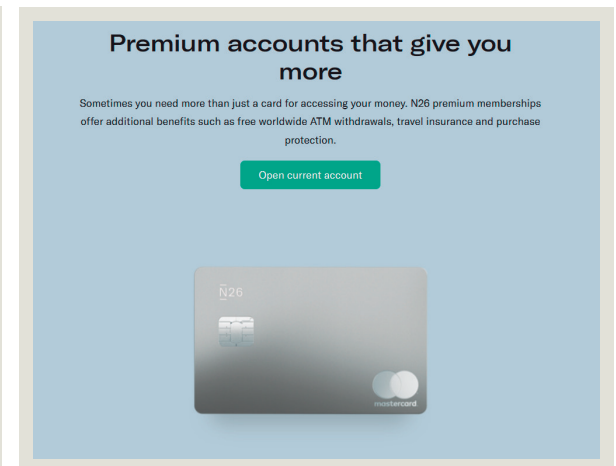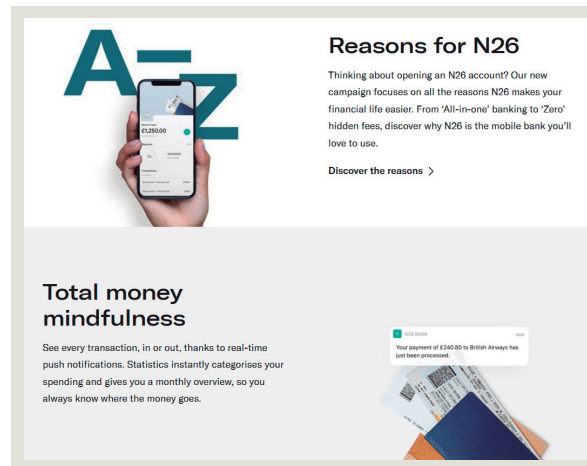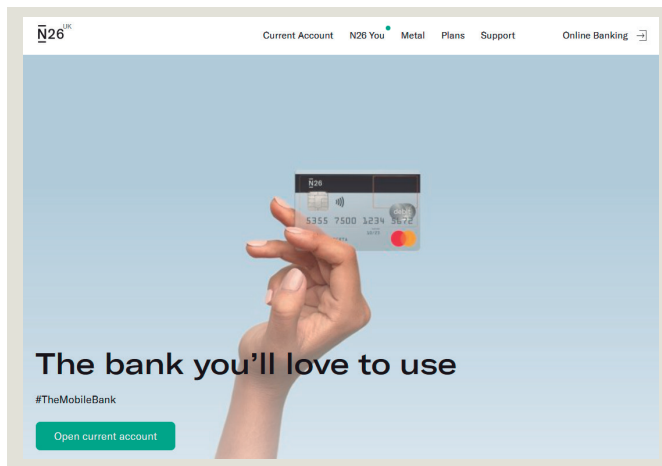
N26, Consumer Banking, UK
The mobile and desktop websites are focused on new customers. It is very clear how to start, with the 'Open current account' call to action repeated throughout the content. Scrolling moves 'Open current account' to the header as a sticky button that is always shown.

Best Practice #2 examples:
Give customers a nudge into the journey

16:48   n26.com

Open current account

Open a full UK current account in minutes

Open an N26 account in minutes, get full financial control for much longer. All without a scrap of paperwork.

Open current account

16:49   n26.com

Open Bank Account

The campaign

As a mobile bank, our mission is to change the way people feel about and interact with their money. But being the first sometimes means we get questions like, 'what is a mobile-only bank?' and 'how can mobile banking make managing money simpler?' To help us explain the reasons why over 3.5 million customers bank with us, we've launched a new campaign - based on our very own alphabet. The N26 alphabet. Explaining from A to Z why banking with us makes money management easy.

Our blog >

Open Bank Account

16:22   n26.com

Open current account

Spaces
Total Balance: £5,849.00

Main Account £2,429.00
Trip to Thailand £420.00
New Space

Free card payments worldwide

N26 is your perfect travel companion – use your contactless N26 Mastercard in shops or online anywhere in the world, with zero fees or markups in any currency.

N26, Consumer Banking, UK
N26 reassure the customer of how easy it is to open an account and that no paperwork is necessary. They also feature value-add content that helps to explain the benefits of selecting N26, which are always reinforced with prominent call to action buttons.

Best Practice #2 examples:
Give customers a nudge into the journey
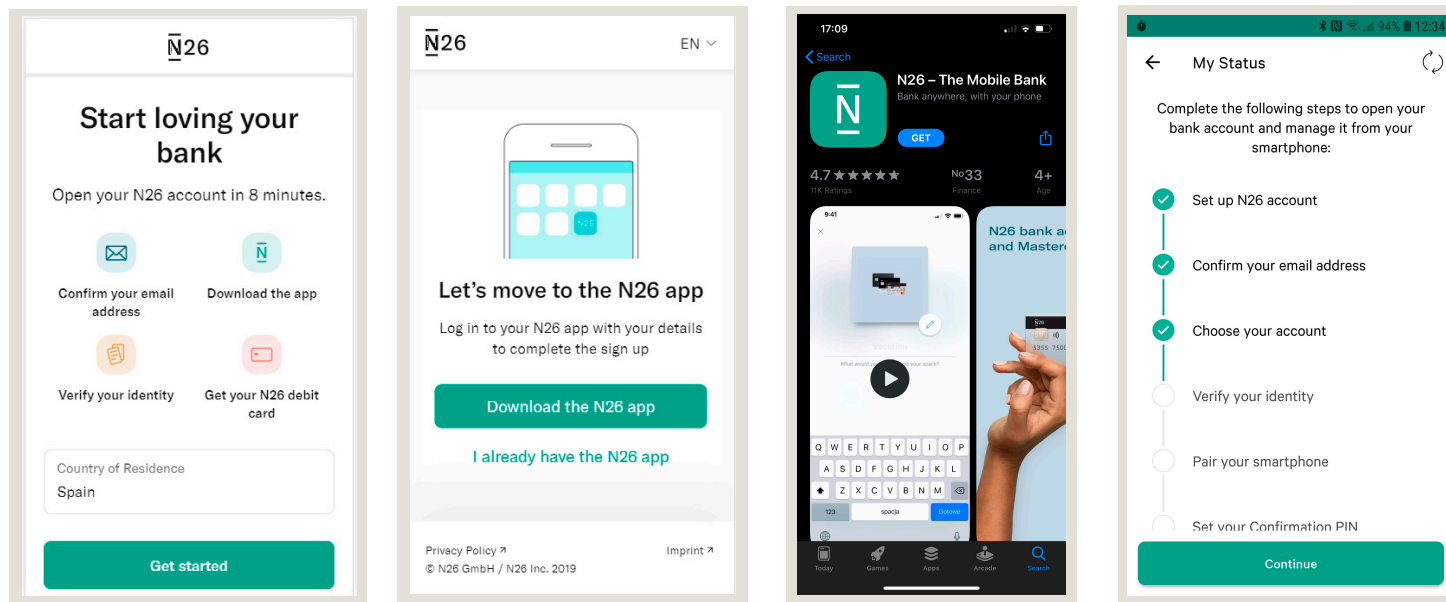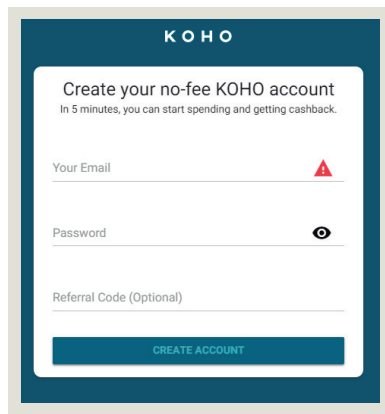
N26, Consumer Banking, UK
You can download the app or go to the website to start the onboarding process, but if you start on the website then it integrates the app downloading as part of the onboarding journey.

Best Practice #2 examples:
Give customers a nudge into the journey
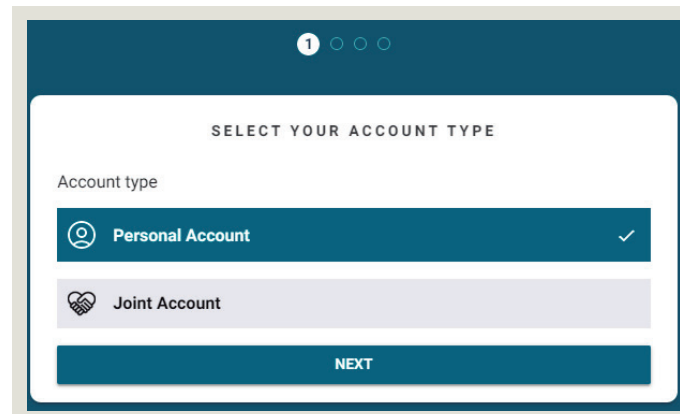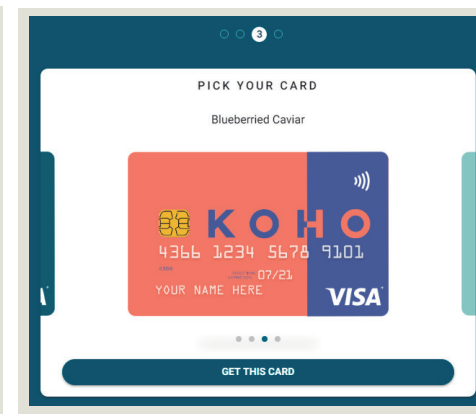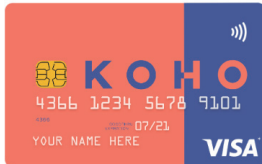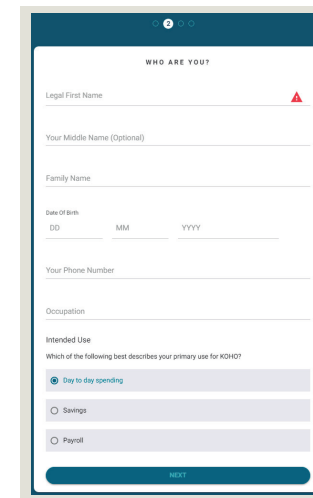
KOHO, Consumer Banking, Canada

Koho uses a clear call to action and start the process by prompting for the customer's email address and asking them to choose a password. Each subsequent question draws the customer into the process without appearing complicated or onerous.

Best Practice #2 examples:
Give customers a nudge into the journey
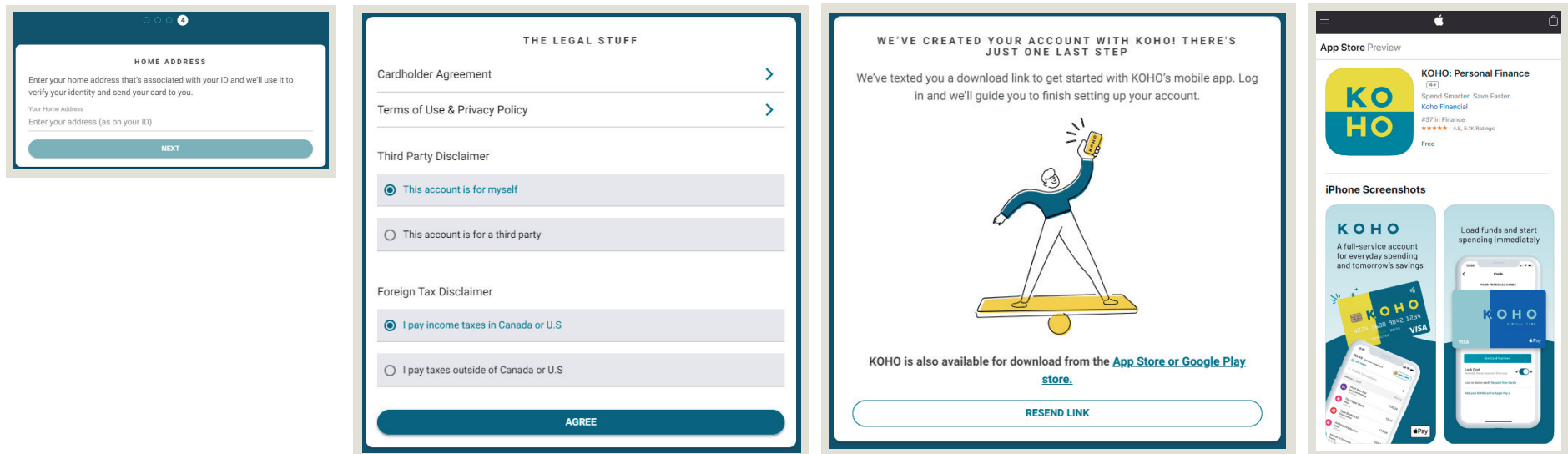
KOHO, Consumer Banking, Canada
If the customer started the onboarding journey on the website then the mobile app download is integrated as part of the process through a link to the app store.

Best Practice #2 examples:

Give customers a nudge into the journey
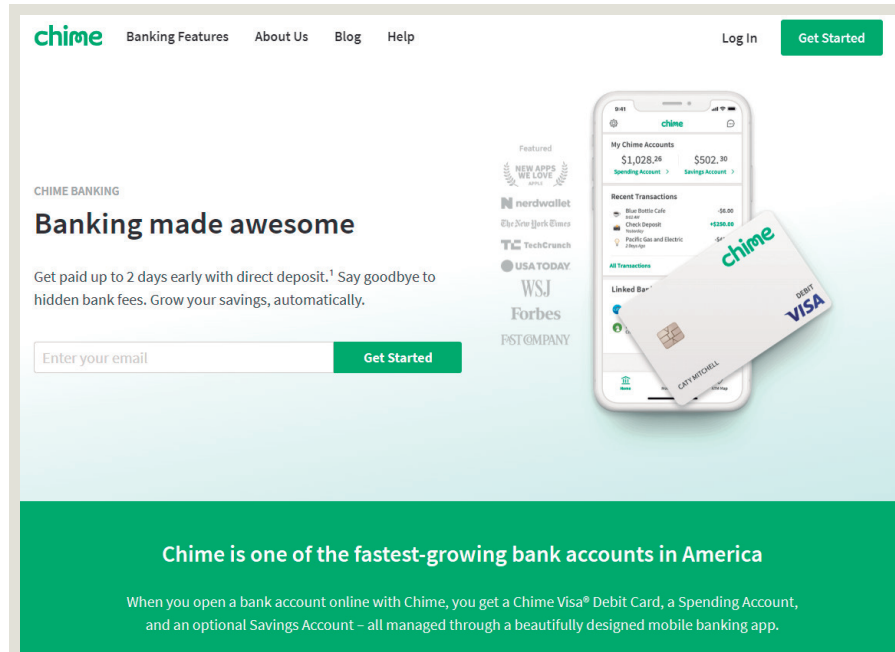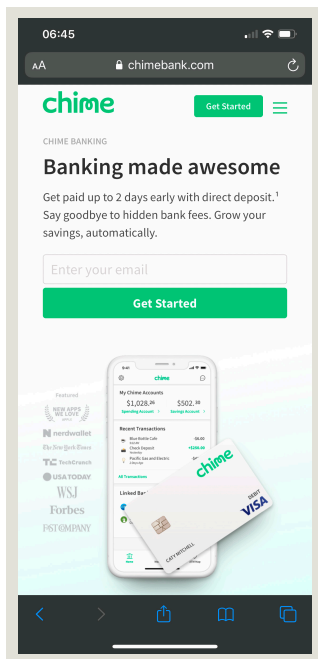
CHIME, Consumer Banking, US
The 'Get Started' button is always visible at the top of the page and also used throughout the main content. The sign up process starts with the user entering an email address. The visuals show the app, debit card and logos of brands that have reviewed the product.

Best Practice #2 examples:
Give customers a nudge into the journey
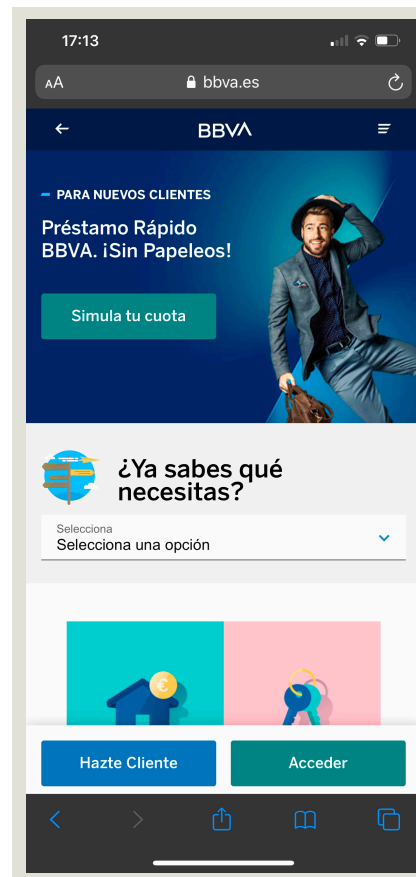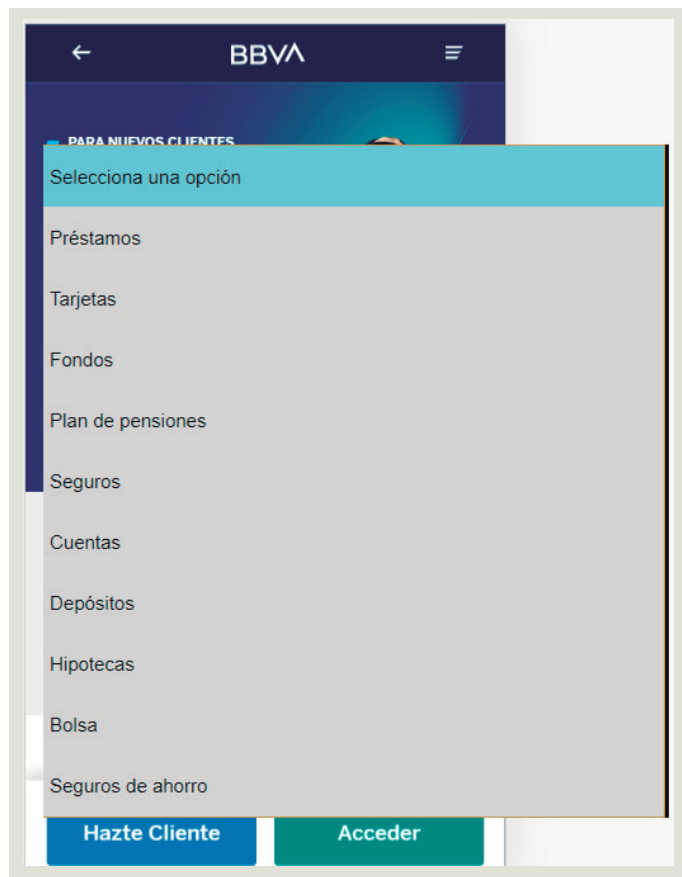
BBVA, Consumer Banking, Spain
Very clear how to start with the blue button labelled 'become a customer' that is also sticky and always stays at the bottom of the screen. Scrolling is minimised, but on the first screen the user is asked what they want to look at through a drop down menu to all product options.

Best Practice #2 examples:
Give customers a nudge into the journey
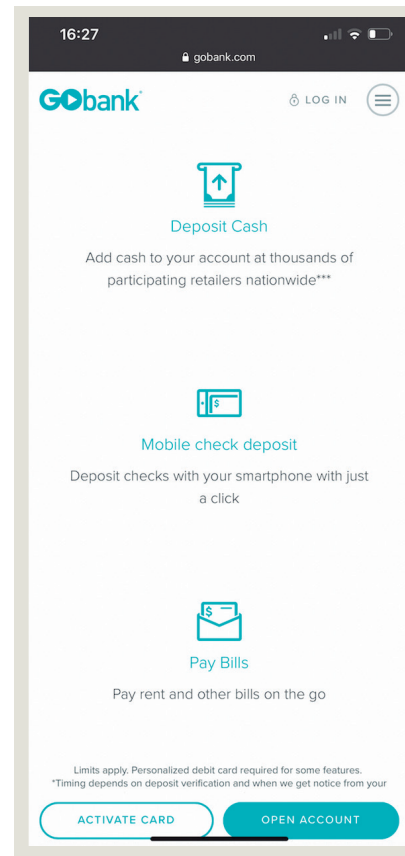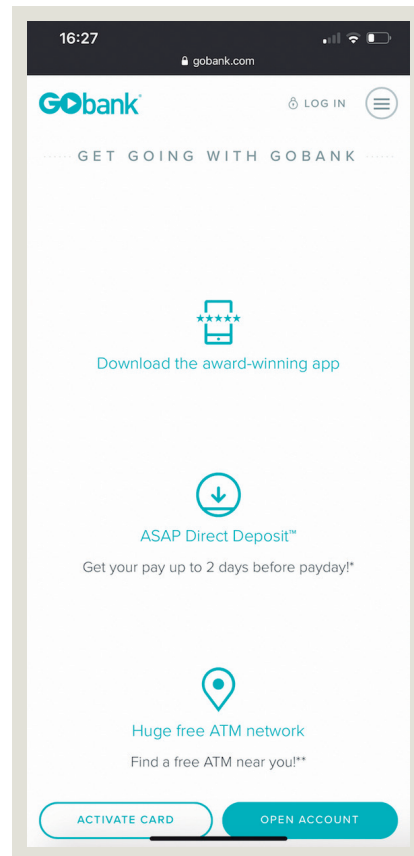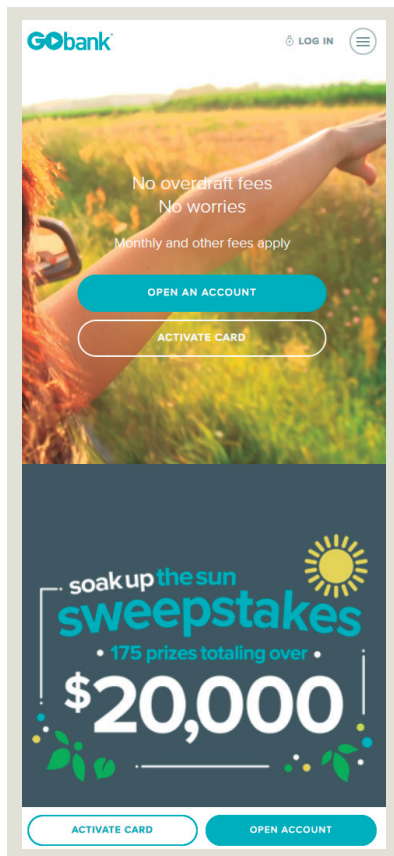
GO BANK, Consumer Banking, USA
The 'Open An Account' button makes it clear how to start and is repeated in a sticky bar at the bottom of the screen. There is also a primary option for customers to activate their card and a promotion to win a prize.

Best Practice #2 examples:
Give customers a nudge into the journey
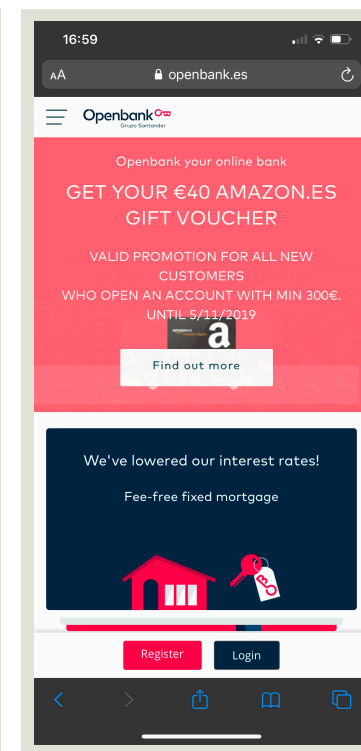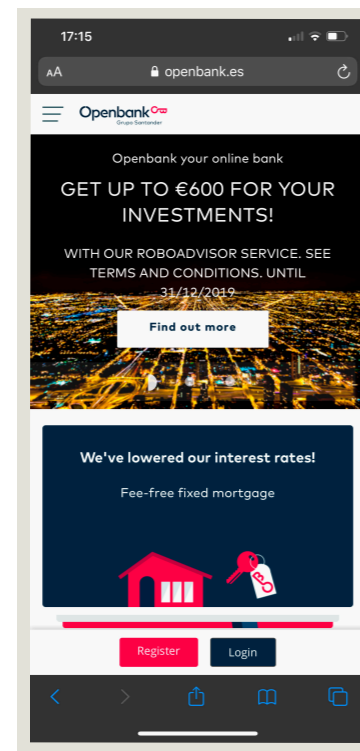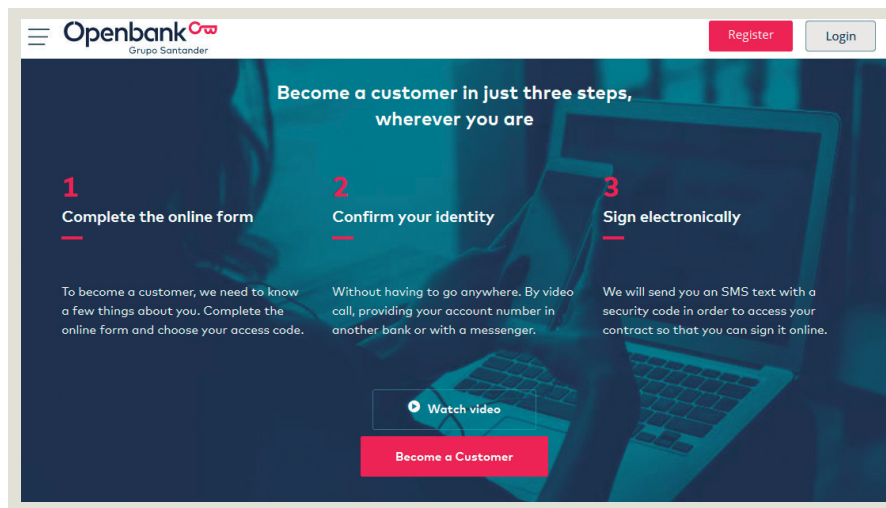
OPENBANK, Consumer Banking, Spain
The 'Register' button is always visible and you can quickly navigate to all of the bank and product information. There is also a button to get assistance through a 'call me back' function. Promotions rotate through a carousel to attract a new customer's attention.

Best Practice #2 examples:
Give customers a nudge into the journey
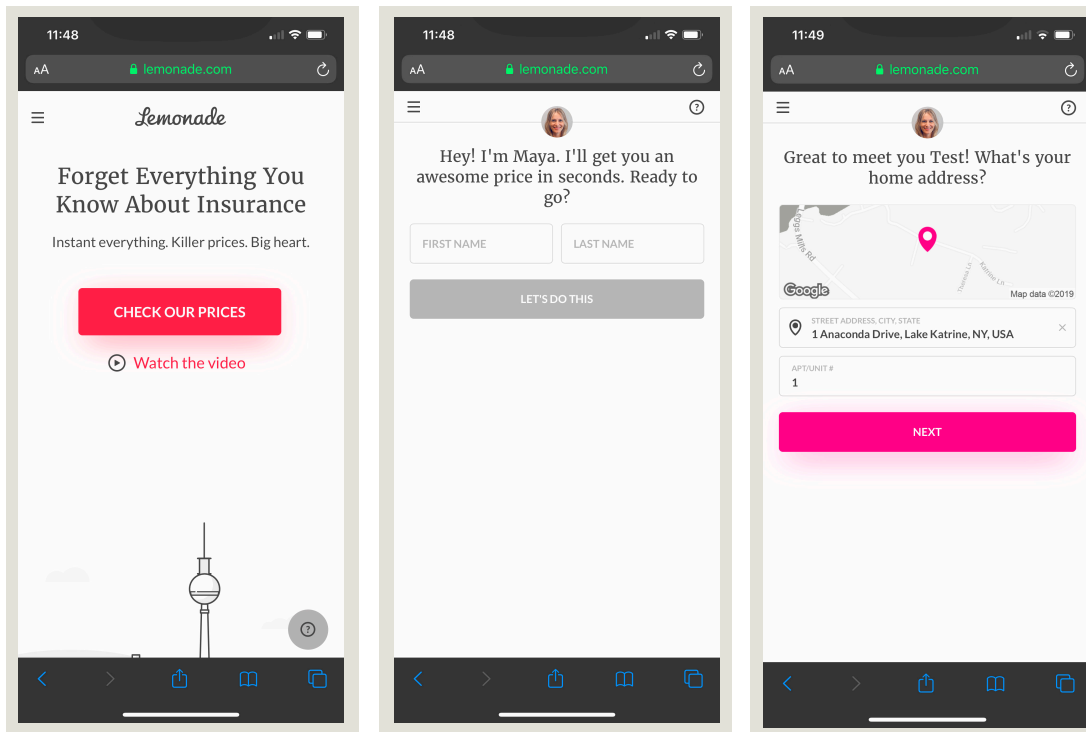
LEMONADE, Consumer Insurance, US
The customer can start the sign up process by tapping 'Check our prices' which then asks them a series of simple questions about their requirement and circumstance.

Best Practice #2 examples:

Give customers a nudge into the journey

LEMONADE, Consumer Insurance, US
Lemonade make the questions easy to answer by using simple, visual selectors that make the process seem easy and short before generate a quote.

Best Practice #2 examples:
Give customers a nudge into the journey
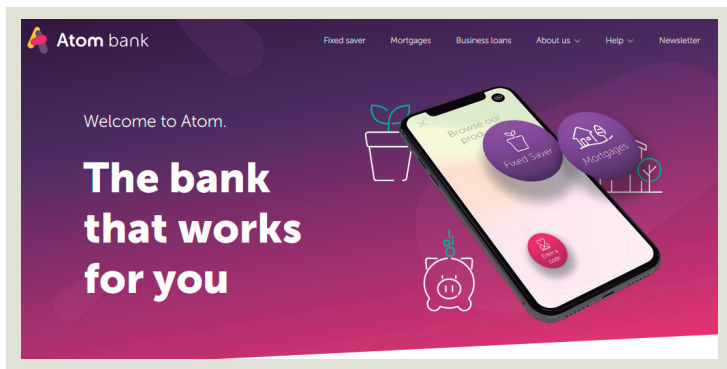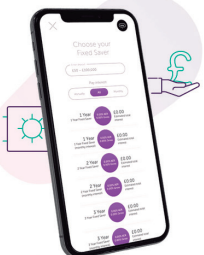
ATOM BANK, Consumer Banking, UK
Atom Bank's landing page is clearly designed for new customer acquisition. There are 3 sections of relevant information and the mobile app is always featured. The first section describes the key customer benefits of joining the bank with links to download the app.

Best Practice #2 examples:
Give customers a nudge into the journey

ATOM BANK, Consumer Banking, UK
The second section highlights the complete range of products, and the last section reinforces another of the bank's key benefits, which is supported by their Trustpilot ratings.

Best Practice #2 examples:
Give customers a nudge into the journey
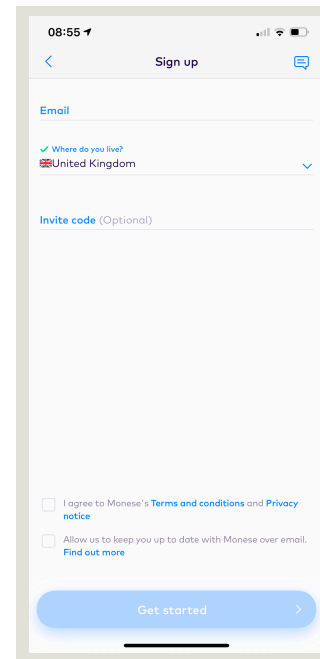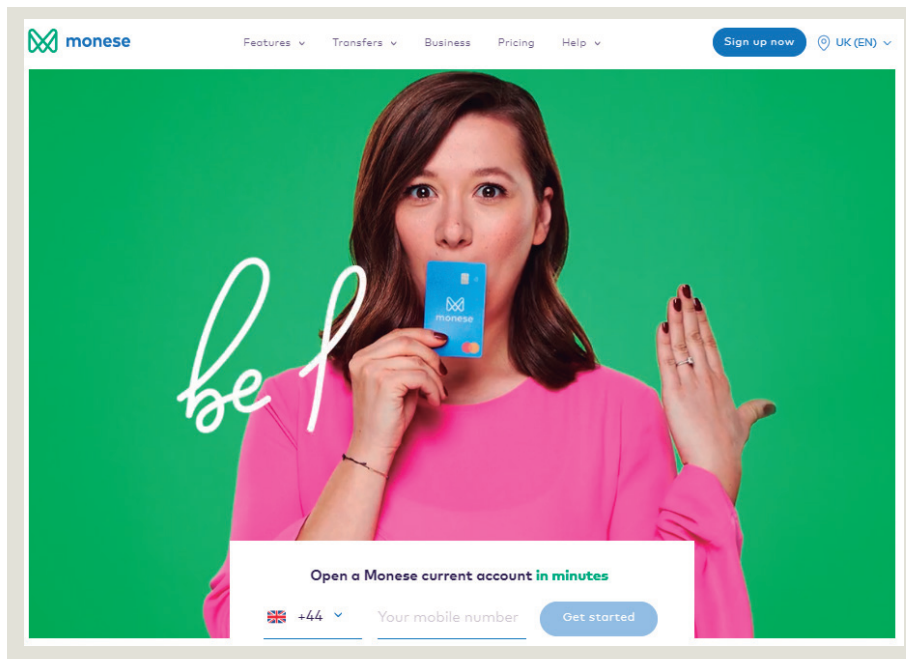
MONESE, Consumer Banking, UK
The 'Sign up now' button is always visible at the top of the page and the 'Get started' feature is in the main content. Both prompt the user to enter a mobile number to receive a link to download the app. The rest of the onboarding process is within the app.

Best Practice #2 examples:

Give customers a nudge into the journey

SEVEN BANK, Consumer Banking, Japan
The onboarding process starts with a secure link you receive after completing just an email address and captcha, with 24 hours to start the process.

Best Practice #3:
Sell the end game benefits at the front door

From a customer perspective, onboarding starts well before they begin the sign-up process because, by this point, they have already self-selected a product from the brand. This means marketing has served its purpose to get them to consider signing-up and now they are here, doing just that.

Onboarding with a brand is something most customers only do once in their life so, simplicity is critical to helping them through the process without abandoning.

However, during the sign-up process customers can be distracted and lose sight of why they started the process, particularly if it is difficult or time consuming. They will need encouragement to complete the journey and be re-assured they made the right choice. Reminding them of the reasons for their choice, be it the brand and/or product benefits, keeps their mind on continuing the journey to achieve their original goal.

Similarly, onboarding finishes only when the customer knows how to use the product and is fully enabled to do so. In essence, onboarding them to the mobile app and the product so they become familiar with the features.

Invest in the customer's experience before they even reach the sign-up process and then remind them of the benefits of joining throughout the onboarding journey. Once the product is opened ensure they know how to get the best from it through demonstration and guidance.

Best Practice #3 examples:

Sell the end game benefits at the front door

KBC, Consumer Banking, Ireland
Reminds the user of the benefits before starting the process. There is also a persistent banner on the screen during sign-up with 'the reasons to be with KBC', which reinforces why they are making the right choice.

Best Practice #3 examples:

Sell the end game benefits at the front door

Reasons for N26

Thinking about opening an N26 account? Our new campaign focuses on all the reasons N26 makes your financial life easier. From 'All-in-one' banking to 'Zero' hidden fees, discover why N26 is the mobile bank you'll love to use.

Discover the reasons >

The campaign

As a mobile bank, our mission is to change the way people feel about and interact with their money. But being the first sometimes means we get questions like, 'what is a mobile-only bank?' and 'how can mobile banking make managing money simpler?' To help us explain the reasons why over 3.5 million customers bank with us, we've launched a new campaign - based on our very own alphabet. The N26 alphabet. Explaining from A to Z why banking with us makes money management easy.

Our blog >

Open Bank Account

Stay tuned...

In the coming weeks we'll be rolling out our brand campaign across our core markets. From "A" for "all in one app" to "Z" for "zero hidden fees", 26 reasons for switching to N26 will be up in lights, online and off. We can't wait.

All reasons from A-Z.

Related posts

- N26 x Booking.com: explore more for less
- Hello Switzerland! N26 celebrates its 26th market launch

N26, Consumer Banking, UK
Always selling the brand and explaining their difference, including through videos.

Best Practice #3 examples:

Sell the end game benefits at the front door
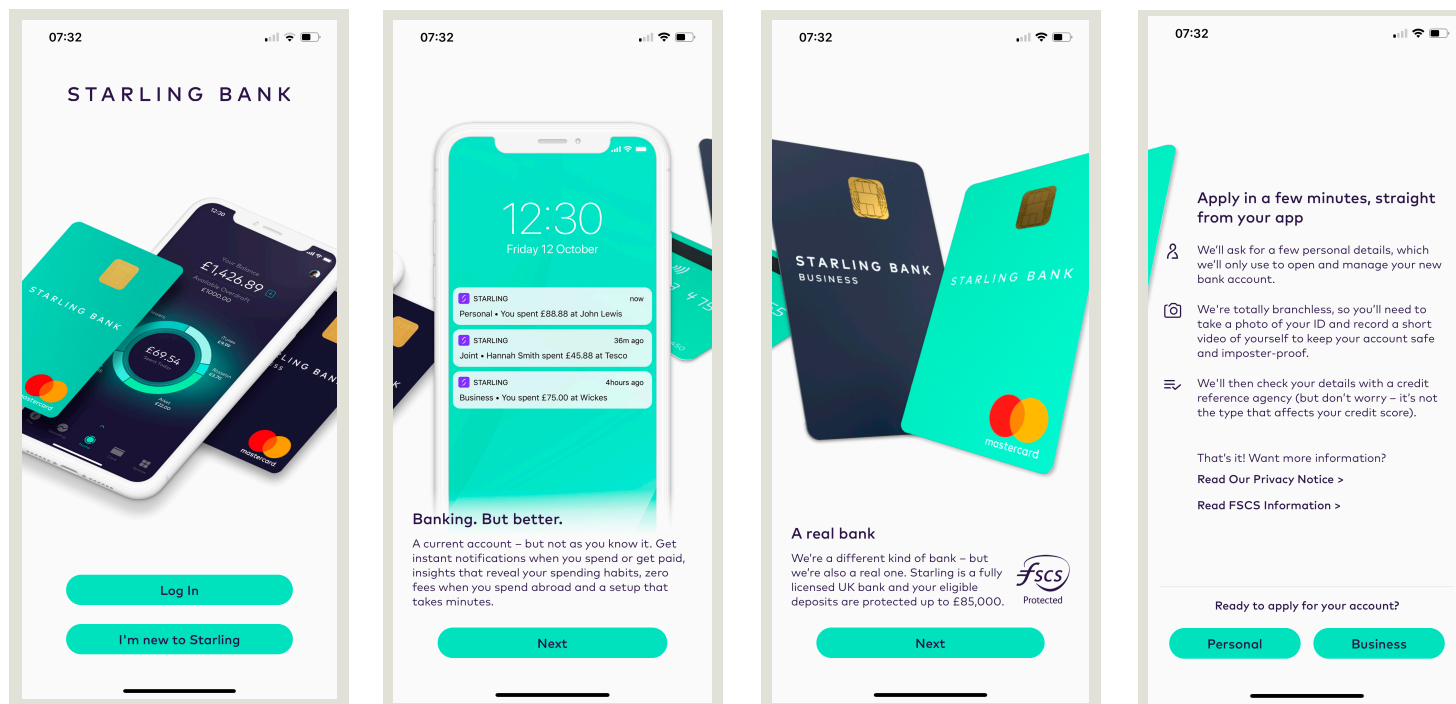
STARLING BANK, Consumer Banking, UK
The benefits are featured on intro screens before the onboarding process starts in the app.

Best Practice #3 examples:
Sell the end game benefits at the front door
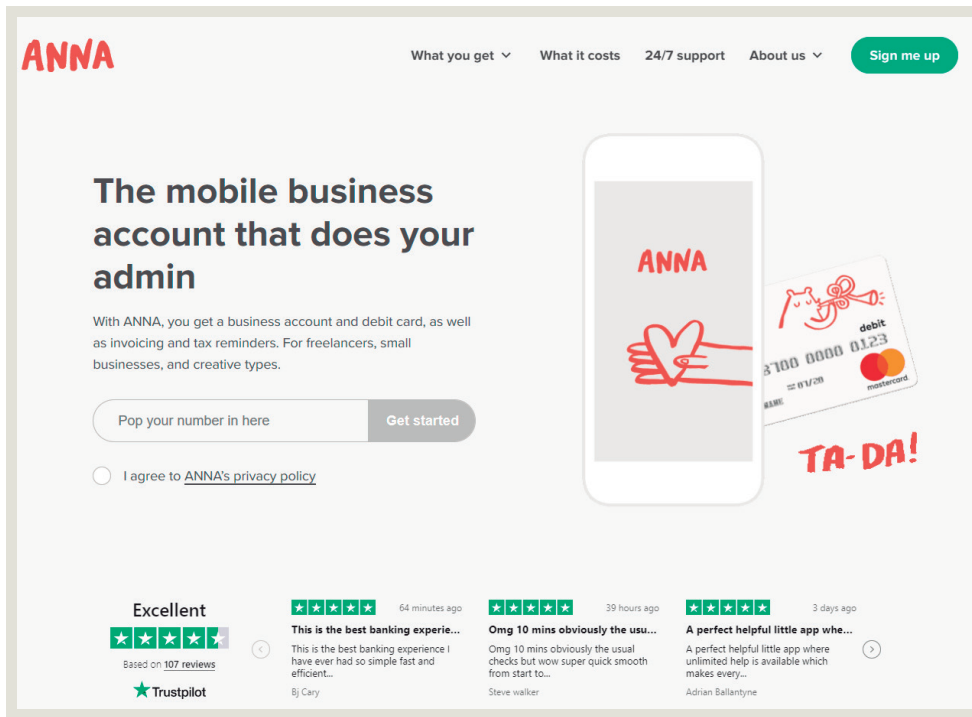
ANNA, Business Banking, UK
The website features the overall Trustpilot rating plus a selection of individual ratings and verbatim comments from customers to portray credibility.

Best Practice #3 examples:
Sell the end game benefits at the front door
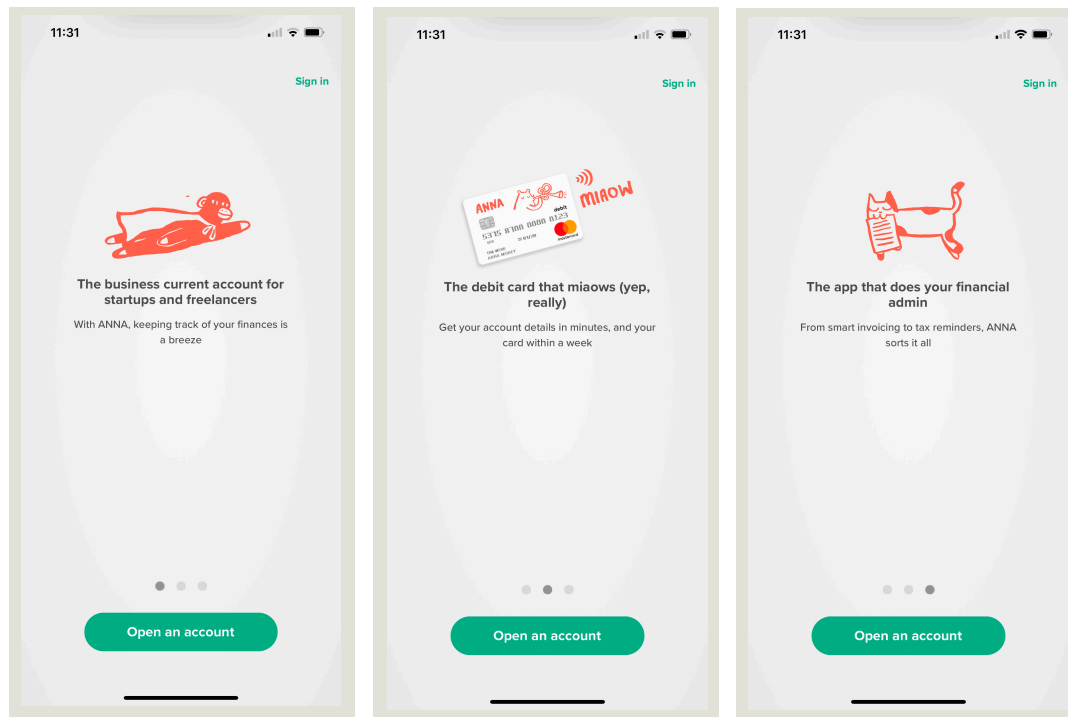
ANNA, Business Banking, UK
In the mobile app the key benefits are repeated on a message carousel before the onboarding process starts. The brand identity is carried through using their unique imagery rather than the logo.

Best Practice #3 examples:
Sell the end game benefits at the front door

MONZO, Consumer Banking, UK
The website makes clear the value proposition and features screens from the highly visual mobile app. There is also reassurance that there are already a lot of customers, plus links to download the app from the app store.

Best Practice #3 examples:
Sell the end game benefits at the front door
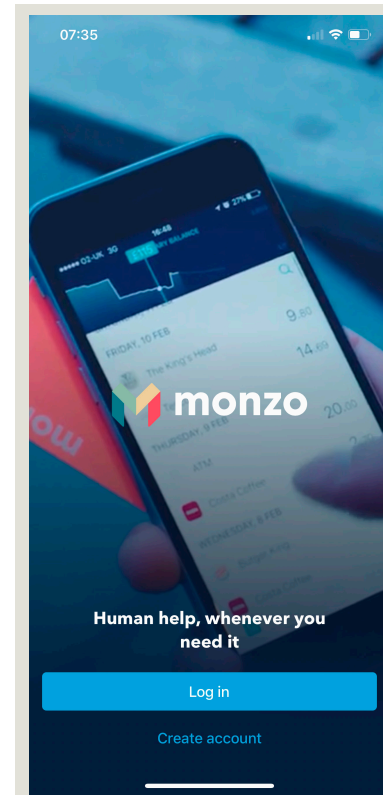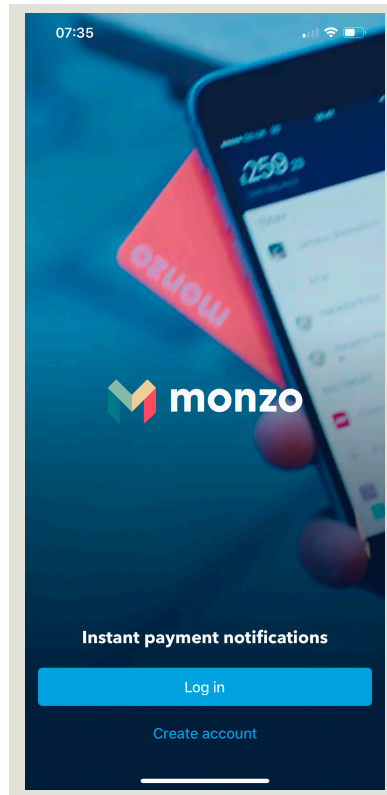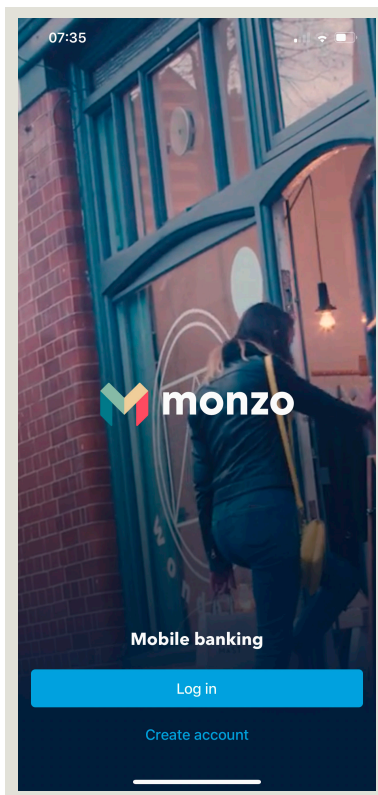
MONZO, Consumer Banking, UK
The app features a video background that includes a message carousel of the top 3 benefits, which serve as an intro to the onboarding process.

Best Practice #3 examples:
Sell the end game benefits at the front door
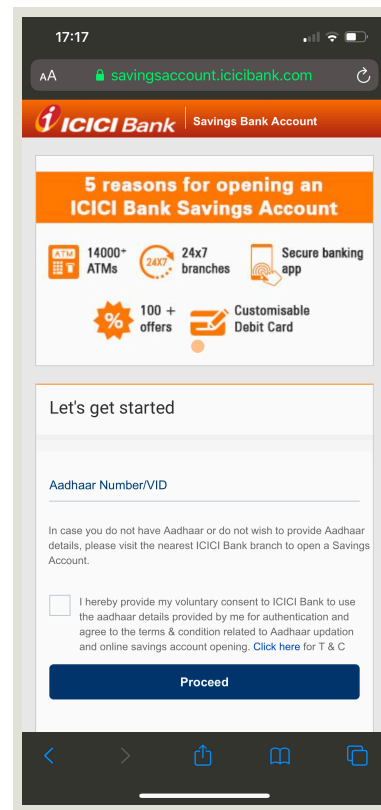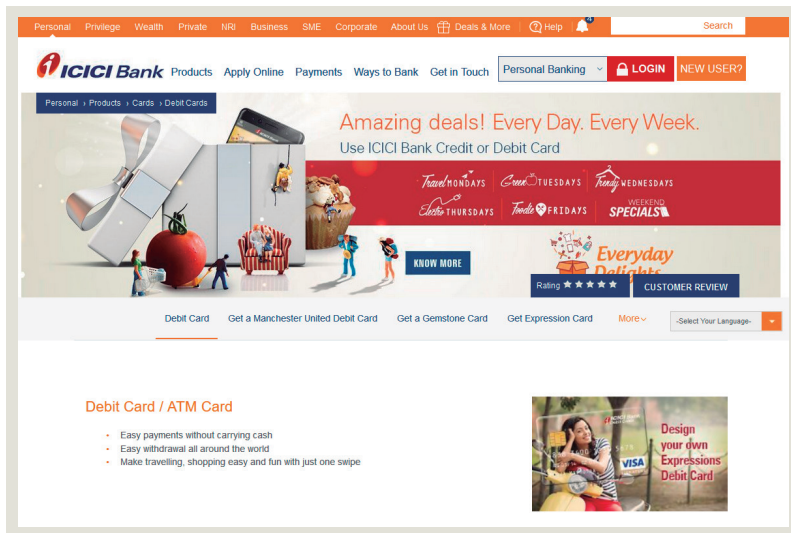
ICICI BANK, Consumer Banking, India
The website promotes the latest incentives and key product features. When applying there is an always-present banner showing the top 5 reasons for opening an account, which helps reassure the customer that they are getting great deal.

Best Practice #3 examples:
Sell the end game benefits at the front door
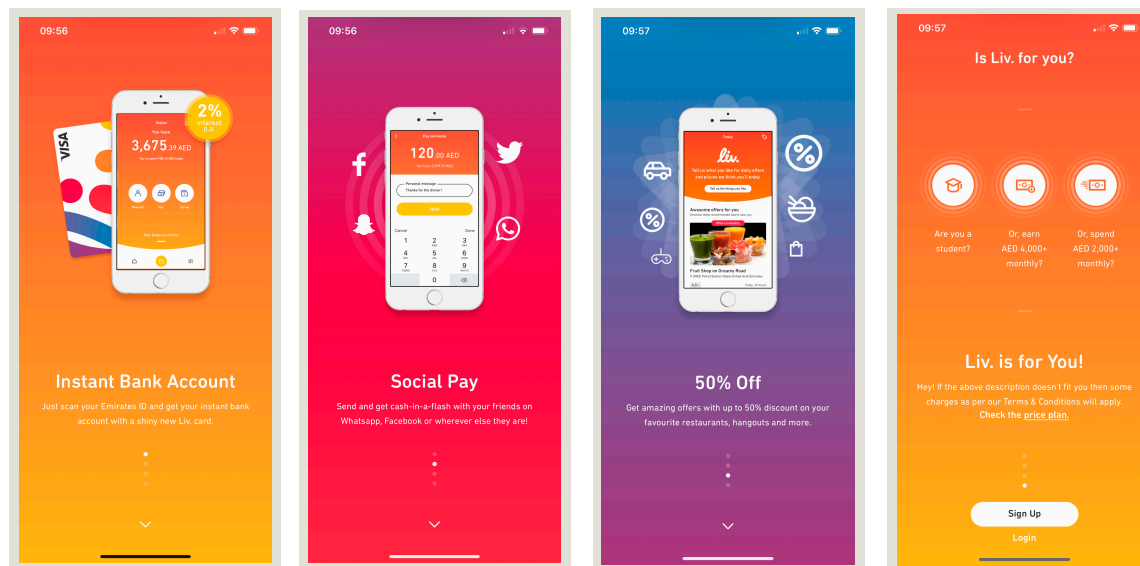
LIV. BANK, Consumer Banking, UAE
Simple and bright, colourful screens remind users of the key benefits before the onboarding process starts in the app.

Best Practice #3 examples:
Sell the end game benefits at the front door
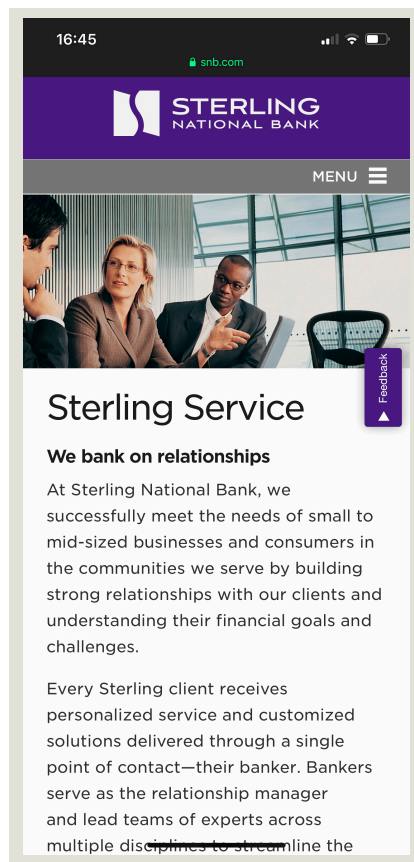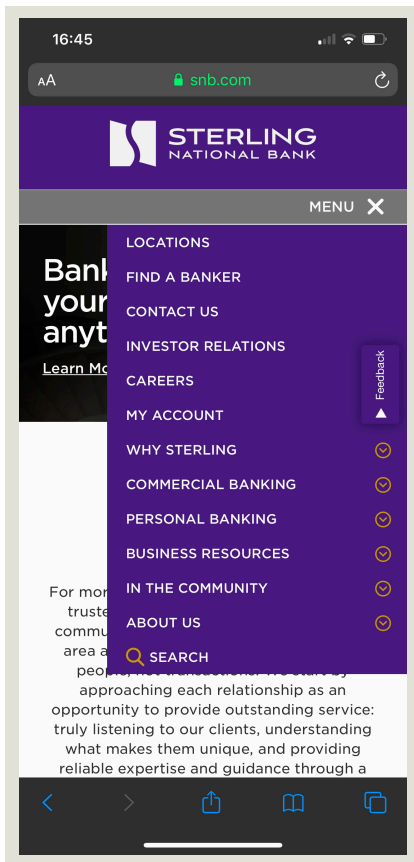
STERLING NATIONAL BANK, Consumer Banking, USA
The website includes a specific section on 'Why Sterling' which reinforces the reasons for choosing them and sets the expectations about the service being more about the relationship.

Best Practice #3 examples:
Sell the end game benefits at the front door
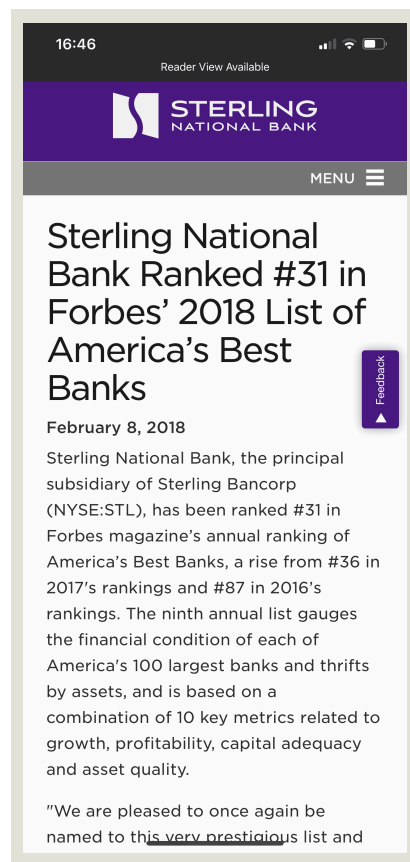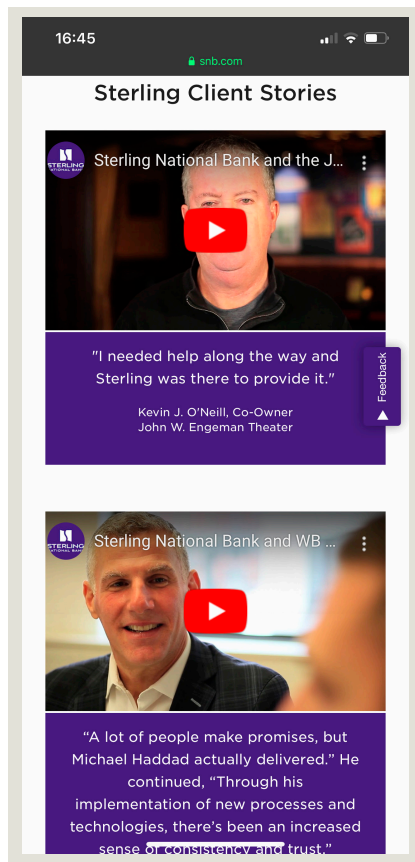
STERLING NATIONAL BANK, Consumer Banking, USA
Sterling also feature video testimonials from customers and references to the bank's public ranking which gives credibility to the usual 'marketing-speak' found in these sections.

Best Practice #3 examples:
Sell the end game benefits at the front door
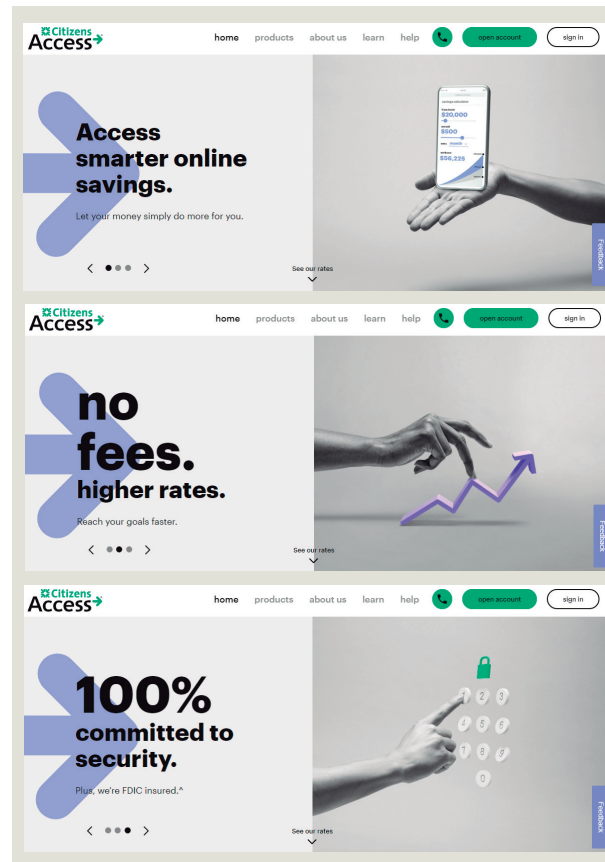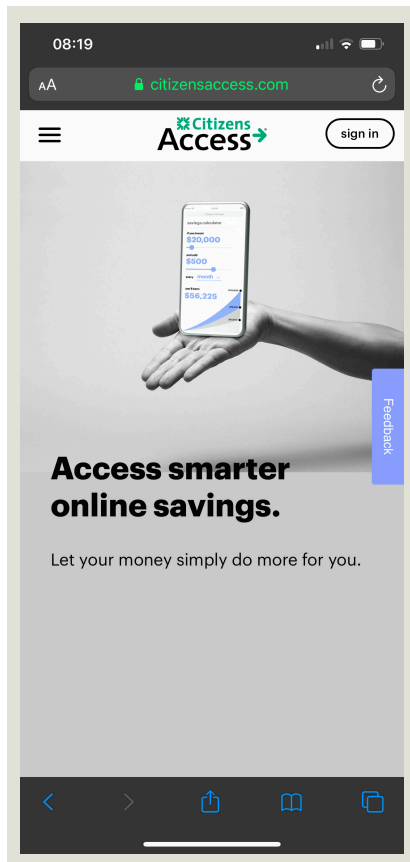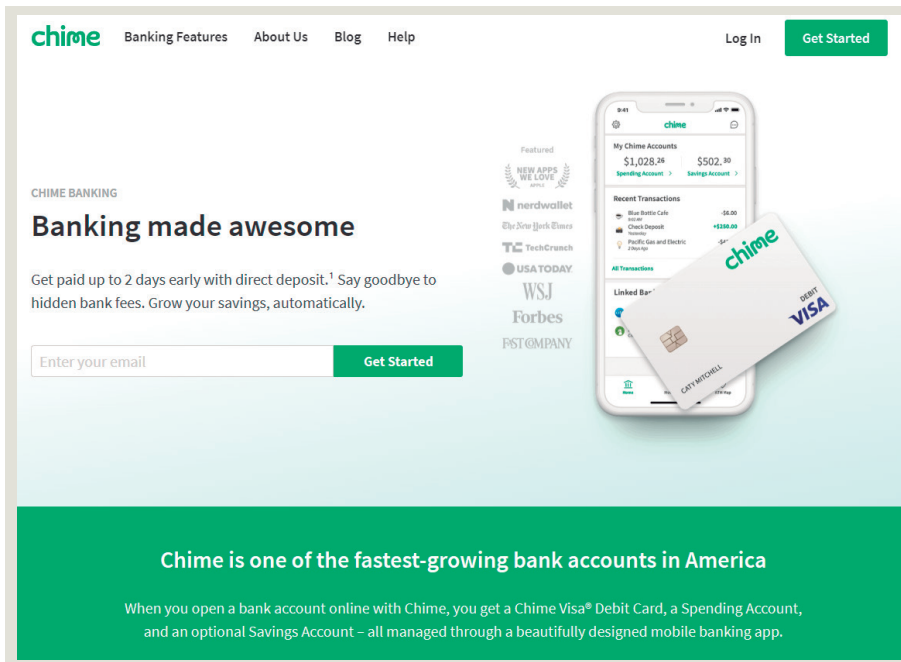
CITIZENS ACCESS, Consumer Savings, USA
The 'open account' button is always visible at the top of the screen along with access to all of the bank and product information. The benefits of the proposition are big and bold, and the main points are rotated through a carousel to attract a new customer's attention.

Best Practice #3 examples:
Sell the end game benefits at the front door

CHIME, Consumer Banking, USA
The key differentiators are on the website home page and supported by social proof in the form of logos of brands that have written reviews about the product,
Trustpilot reviews, app store review ratings and industry awards.

Best Practice #3 examples:

Sell the end game benefits at the front door

TANGERINE, Consumer Banking, Canada
The website is clearly aimed at attracting new customers. The key benefits and features are presented on the home page and product pages, each in increasingly more detail.

Best Practice #4:
Make the experience like a 'first-date to marriage in 10 minutes'

Customers don't really want financial products, they just want solutions to their specific needs that do what they expect as simply as possible to fit in with their lives. They also don't want to spend significant time signing up to discover whether those needs are satisfied, or not - they just want the process to be done as quickly as possible. A process that feels long or over-complicated may cause the customer to reconsider and go elsewhere.

Reducing friction in the onboarding process means customers are less likely to drop out because there is less reason to do so. When someone starts the sign-up process they have self-selected the product and are ready to buy so, why over-complicate or confuse the initial sign-up process with understanding their needs, offering additional features, alternative products or customising options? Once the initial product has been opened, there will be ample opportunity to encourage personalisation, customisation, cross-sell and up-sell, whereas if they don't complete the process, then there's no opportunity.

In essence, don't just digitise an existing process, determine what is critical to opening the product and then how, when and where is best to capture it in a new digital onboarding journey? How many steps are really necessary? Could some information be captured after the product is opened and available?

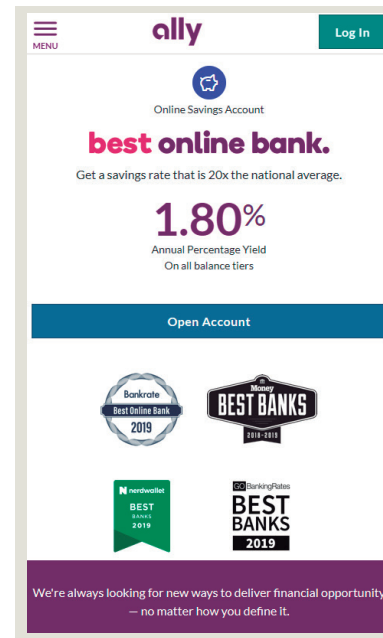Make the onboarding journey as efficient and short as possible - aim to deliver value within 10 minutes.

Best Practice #4 examples:
Make the experience like a 'first-date to marriage in 10 minutes'
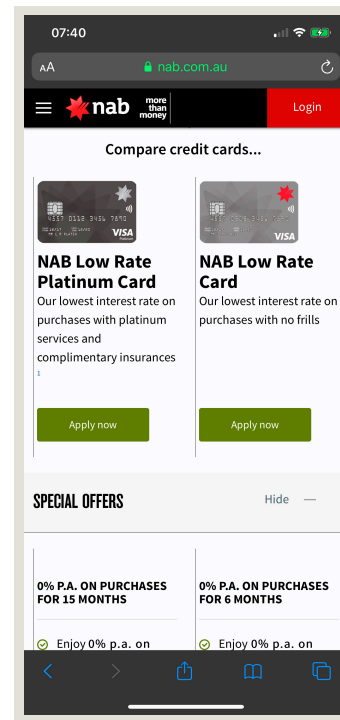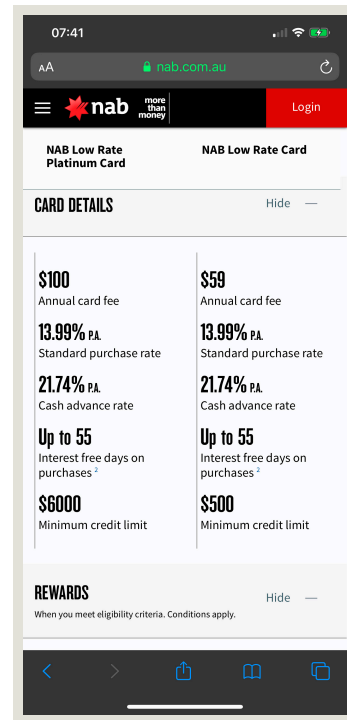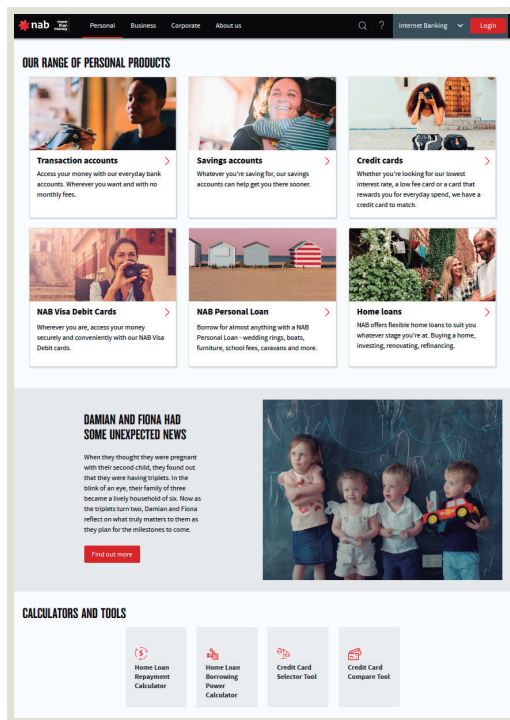
NAB, Consumer Banking, Australia
The NAB website features a range of comparison and selection tools for the products to help customers that are short of time or interest in reading through lots of different product pages, although the latter are still available for the detail.

Best Practice #4 examples:
Make the experience like a 'first-date to marriage in 10 minutes'
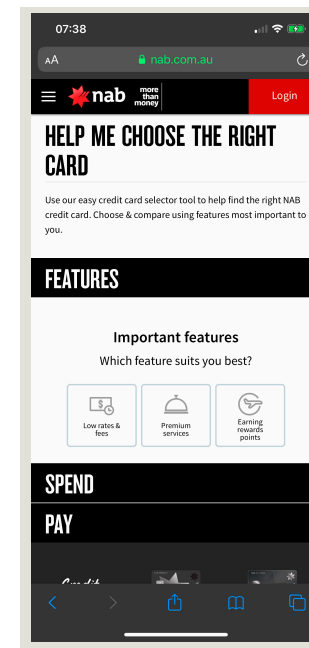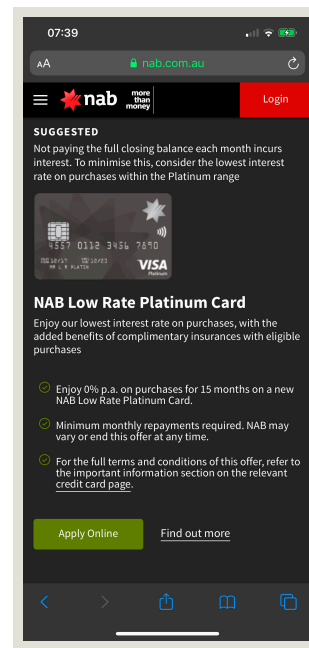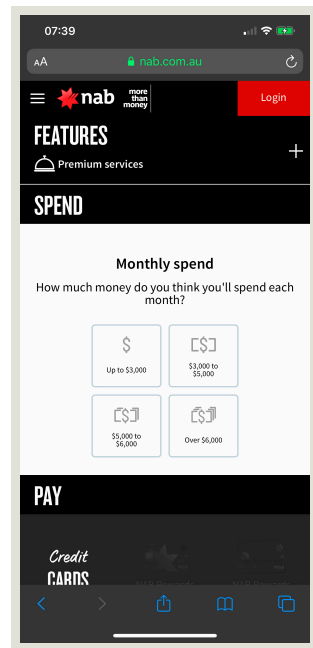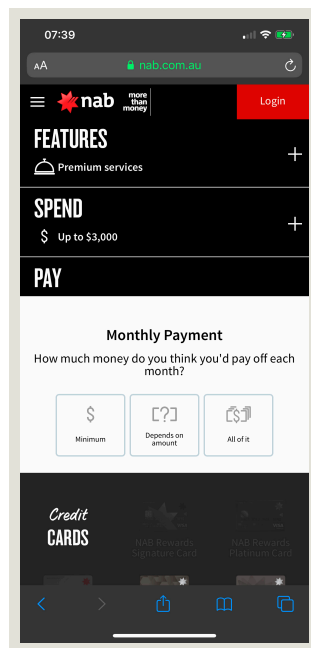
NAB, Consumer Banking, Australia
The selection tools help the customer choose what's best for them and the comparison tools show the key differences between other products in the range, including what the cards look like, the benefits and costs.

Best Practice #4 examples:

Make the experience like a 'first-date to marriage in 10 minutes'

Citizens Access, Consumer Savings, USA
Features highly visual calculators and examples to help customer choose the right account and level of investment.

Best Practice #4 examples:
Make the experience like a 'first-date to marriage in 10 minutes'

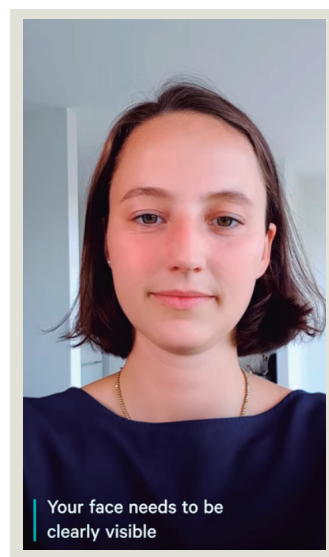| FEATURE	STARLING BANK	Barclays - Premier Curre ▾	Monzo - Current Account ▾
ACCOUNT			
Minimum monthly deposit	✔ £0	✔ £800	✔ £0
Monthly charge	✔ £0	✘ £4	✔ £0
Mobile phone app	✔ yes	✔ yes	✔ yes
Number of mobile app features for protecting your account	✔ 3	✔ 3	✔ 3
INTEREST			
Gross AER - £1,000	✔ 0.50%	✘ 0%	✘ 0%
Interest payment frequency	✔ monthly	✘ not applicable	✘ not applicable
OVERDRAFT			
Overdraft facility	✔ yes	✔ yes	✔ yes
Control feature	✔ standard	✔ flexible	✔ standard
Arranged overdraft charge	no charge	£0 - £3 per day	50p per day
Arranged overdraft rate (%)	15.00%	0%	0%
Unarranged overdraft monthly cap (£)	✔ £2	✔ £32	✔ £0
Overdraft cost (£250 for 5 days)	✔ £0.48	✔ £0	✔ £2.50
Overdraft cost (£500 for 10 days)	✔ £1.92	✔ £0	✔ £5
Overdraft cost (£1,000 for 30 days)	✔ £11.55	✔ £0	✔ £15
TRAVEL			

STARLING, Consumer Banking, UK
Starling Bank goes a step further by enabling the customer to compare the bank's product with up to two other competitor banks. Highlighting makes it easy for the customer to see where each is best across topics such as core account features, interest rates, value-added features and overdraft facilities.

Best Practice #4 examples:

Make the experience like a 'first-date to marriage in 10 minutes'
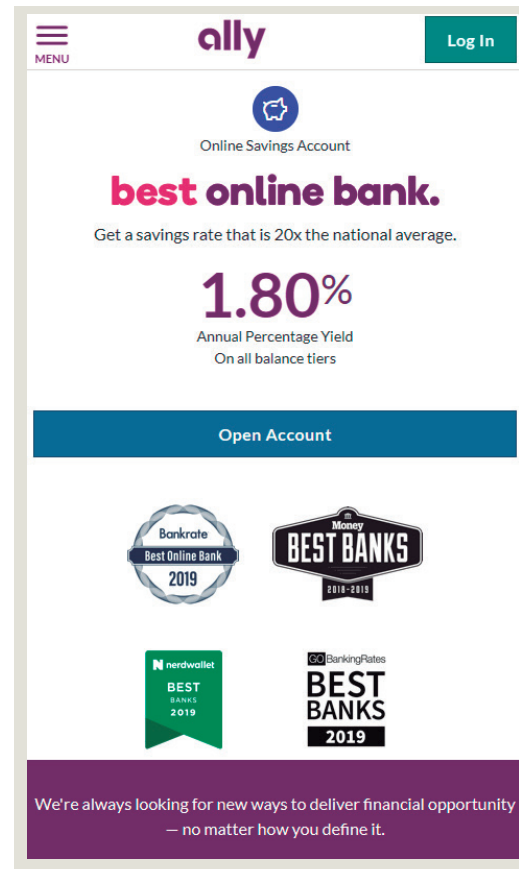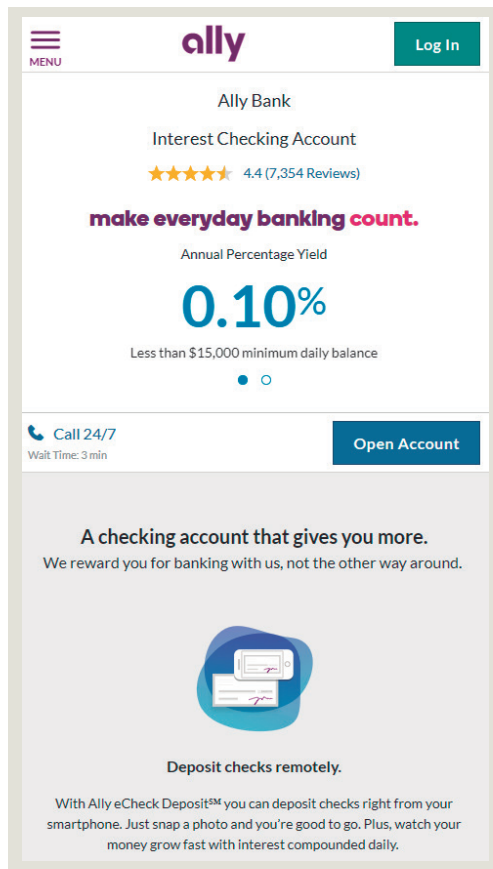
ALLY BANK, Consumer Banking, USA
Features the key customer benefits (e.g. yield, features) and supports the claim of being the 'best online bank' with the awards the brand has won and the overall customer review scores.

Best Practice #4 examples:

Make the experience like a 'first-date to marriage in 10 minutes'
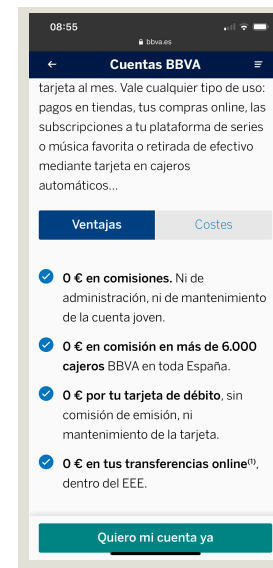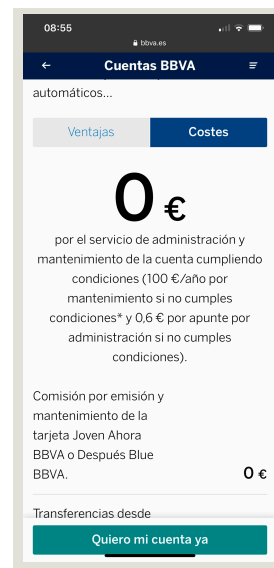
BBVA, Consumer Banking, Spain
Product information is clear and easy for customers to understand, giving the information in a top-down high to low level of detail, with clear advantages and cost section. The sticky button is always there for new customers to start the join journey.

Best Practice #4 examples:

Make the experience like a 'first-date to marriage in 10 minutes'
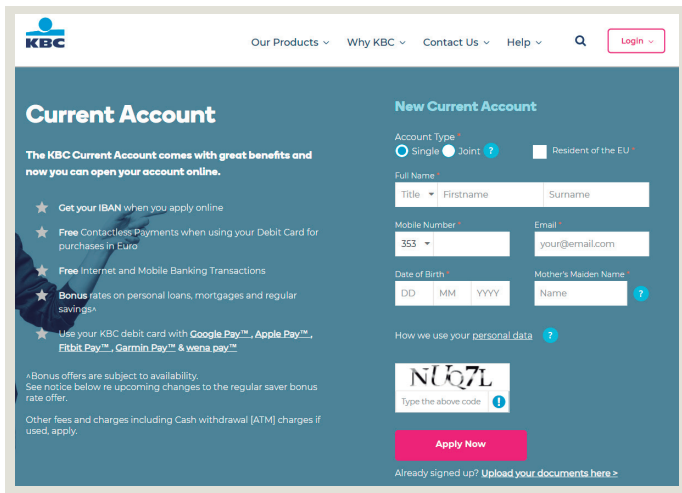
KBC, Consumer Banking, Ireland
Less than 5 minutes to open an account.
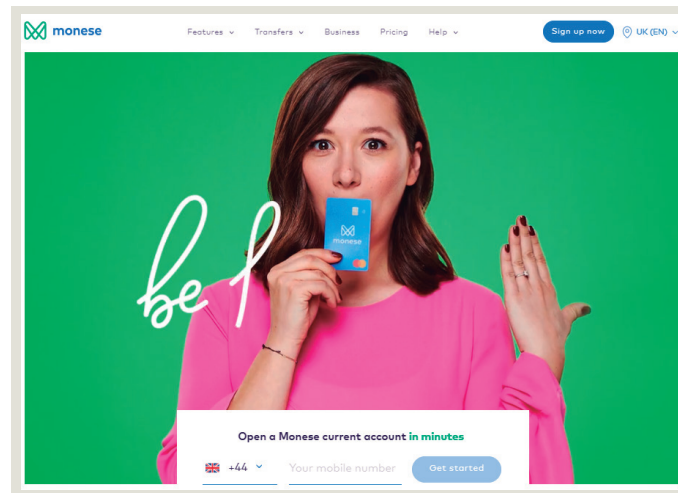
MONESE, Consumer Banking, UK
'A few minutes' to open an account.
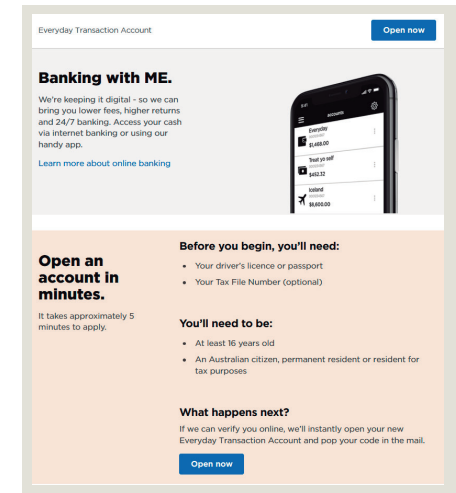
ME BANK, Consumer Banking, Australia
'Approximately 5 minutes to apply'.

Best Practice #4 examples:
Make the experience like a 'first-date to marriage in 10 minutes'
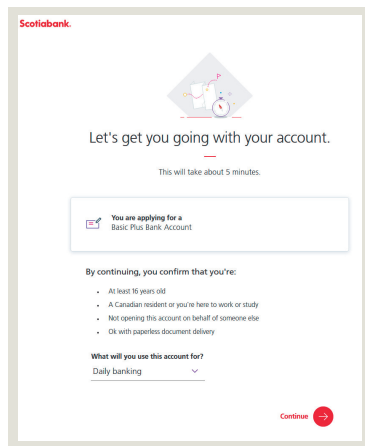
SCOTIABANK, Consumer Banking, Canada
'About 5 minutes' to open an account.
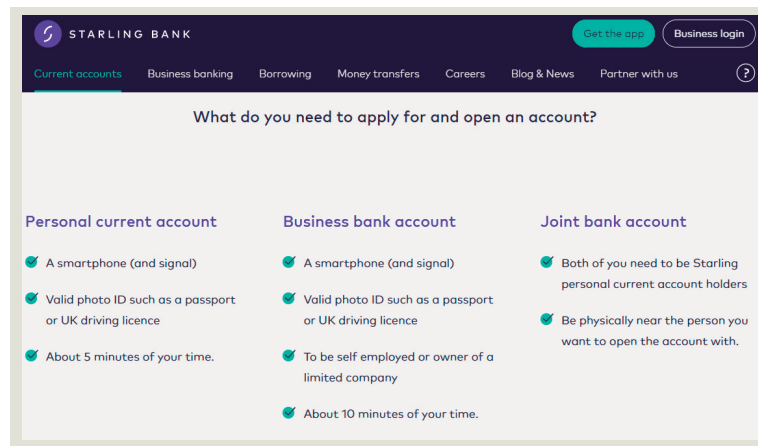
STARLING, Consumer Banking, UK
'About 5 minutes' to open an account.
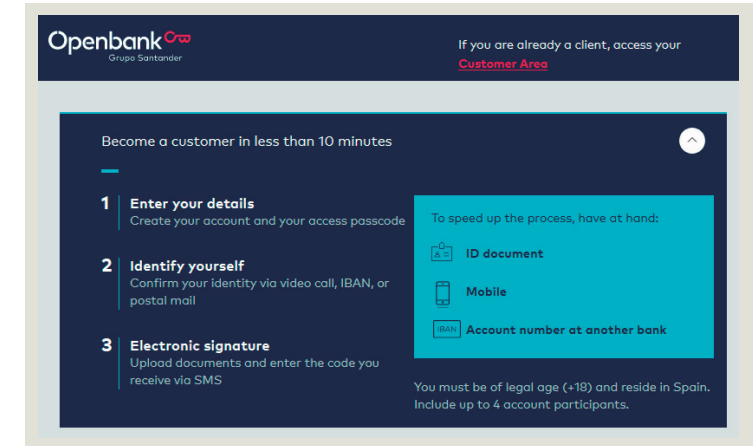
OPENBANK, Consumer Banking, Spain
'Less than 10 minutes' to open an account.

Best Practice #4 examples:
Make the experience like a 'first-date to marriage in 10 minutes'
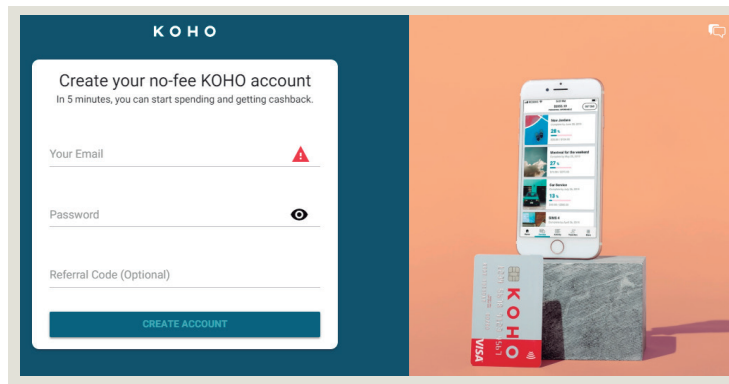
KOHO, Consumer Banking, Canada
Open an account 'in 5 minutes'.
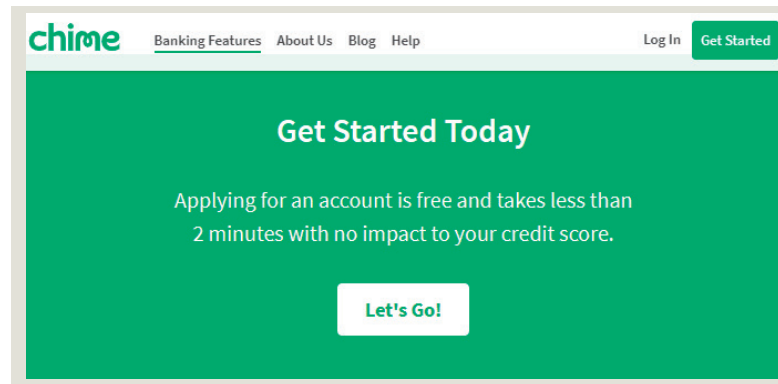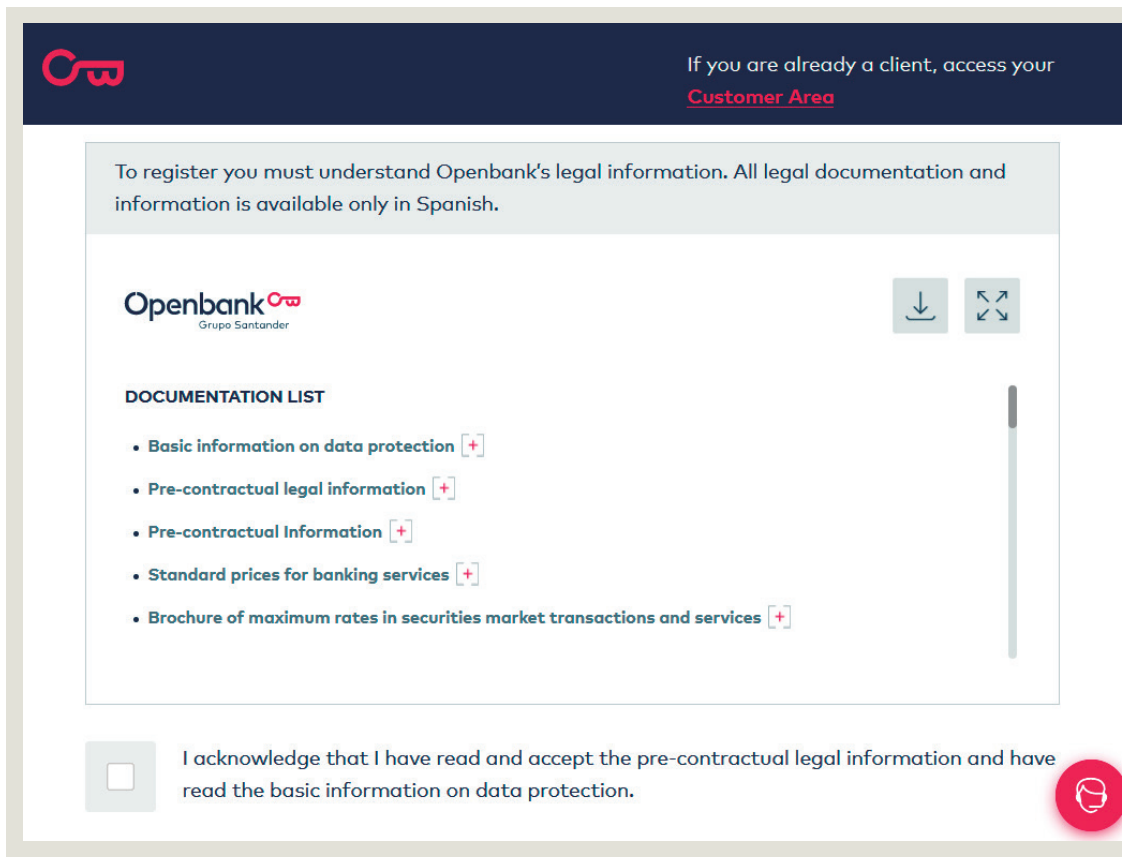
CHIME, Consumer Banking, USA
Applying for an account takes 'less than 2 minutes'.
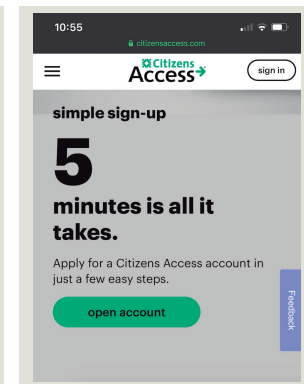
CITIZENS ACCESS, Consumer Banking, USA '5 minutes is all it takes' to open an account.

Best Practice #4 examples:
Make the experience like a 'first–date to marriage in 10 minutes'

OPENBANK, Consumer Banking, Spain
All terms and conditions are presented before the user starts the process, which they must accept with just one click before commencing the onboarding journey.

Best Practice #4 examples:
Make the experience like a 'first-date to marriage in 10 minutes'
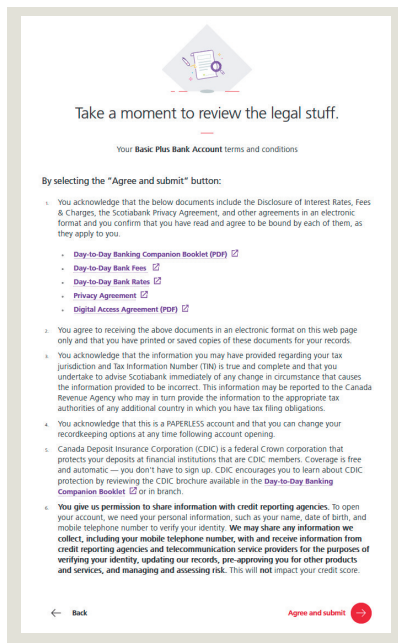
SCOTIABANK, Consumer Banking, Canada
The terms and conditions are part of the early onboarding journey – you don't start entering any personal information until you've accepted them.

ALLY BANK, Consumer Banking, USA
The full terms and conditions for the account are available before starting the onboarding journey and they are presented as a 'Straight Talk Product Guide'.

Best Practice #4 examples:
Make the experience like a 'first-date to marriage in 10 minutes'

N26, Consumer Banking, UK
All terms and conditions are presented for view and/or download and then accepted with just one click.

Best Practice #4 examples:
Make the experience like a 'first-date to marriage in 10 minutes'
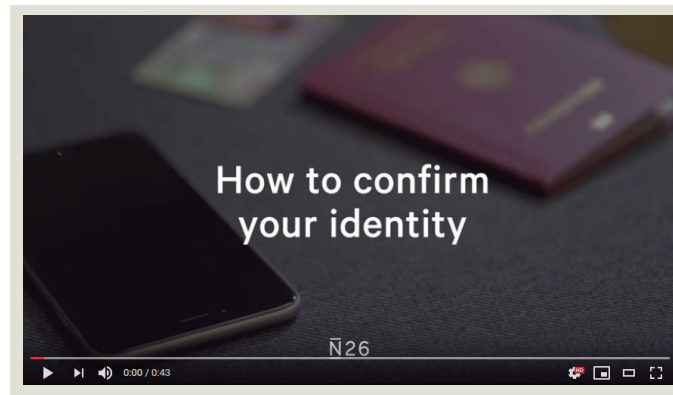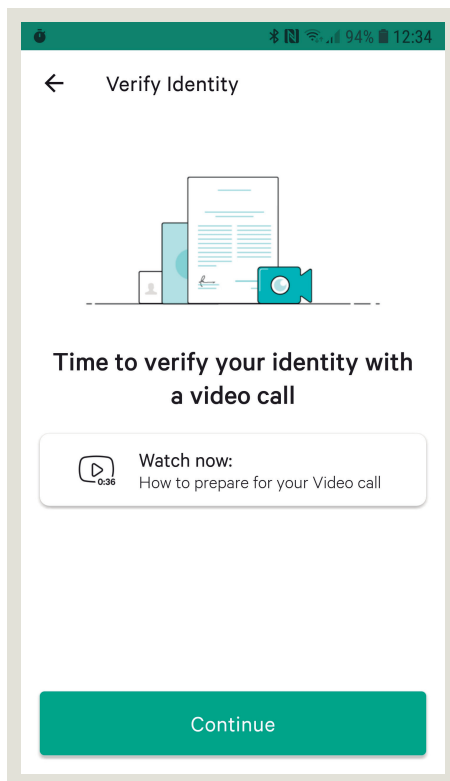
N26, Consumer Banking, UK
The onboarding process informs the user of what happens next for verification. It also includes a short video to help the user prepare for the video call, showing hints and tips, and what to expect during the call.

Best Practice #4 examples:
Make the experience like a 'first-date to marriage in 10 minutes'

Choose a quiet place with strong WiFi

Your face needs to be clearly visible

You'll receive a code for final confirmation
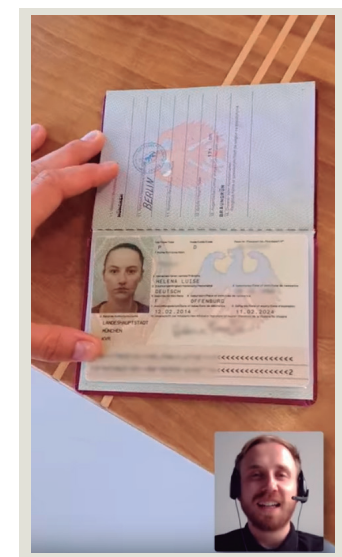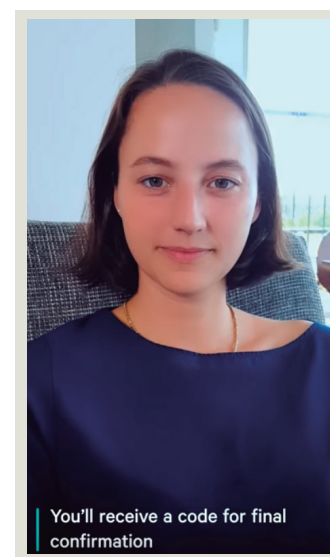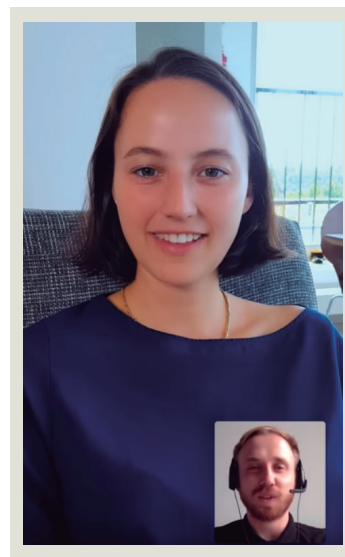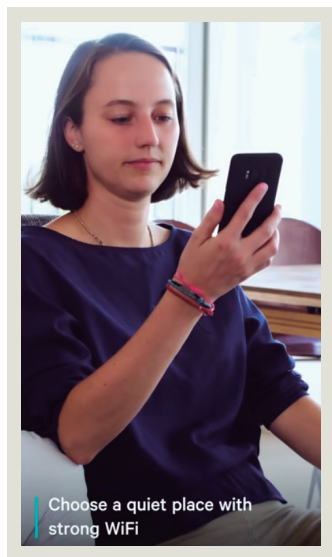
N26, Consumer Banking, UK
The live video call with the N26 agent captures a selfie plus photos of ID and verification documents. Once the call is complete a confirmation code is sent by SMS for the user to verify in the app.

Best Practice #5:
Don't be intrusive: Respect your customer's privacy

The onboarding process may include steps that are inconvenient or intrusive to some customers, whether due to circumstance – 'not right now' - or preference - 'not ever'. This might be having to provide ID by visiting a physical branch, uploading photographic evidence, or through a live video conference.

Each customer will react differently to each situation so, having one fixed approach may be detrimental to them continuing the process now, or ever.

For example, forcing customers to start a live video conference to authenticate their ID may be impractical if they are on the train, or inappropriate if they are still in their pyjamas. Similarly, the customer may not be comfortable giving permission for the app to take full control of their smartphone for a selfie as it may feel like it could access files and photos without permission.

Be clear about what each step requires and, where it could be considered intrusive, offer the user a choice to either defer or select an alternative approach.

Best Practice #5 examples:
Don't be intrusive: Respect your customer's privacy
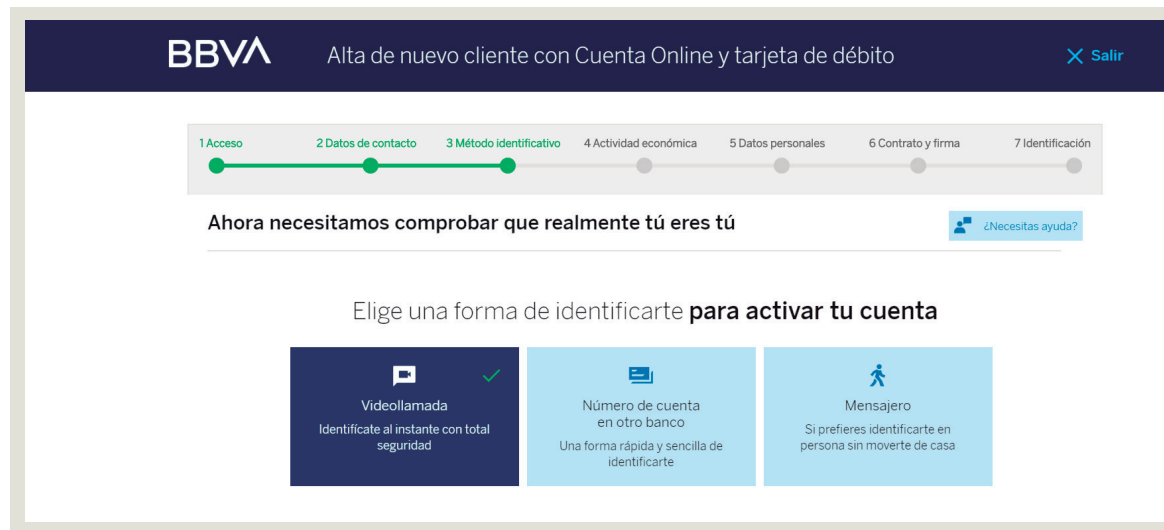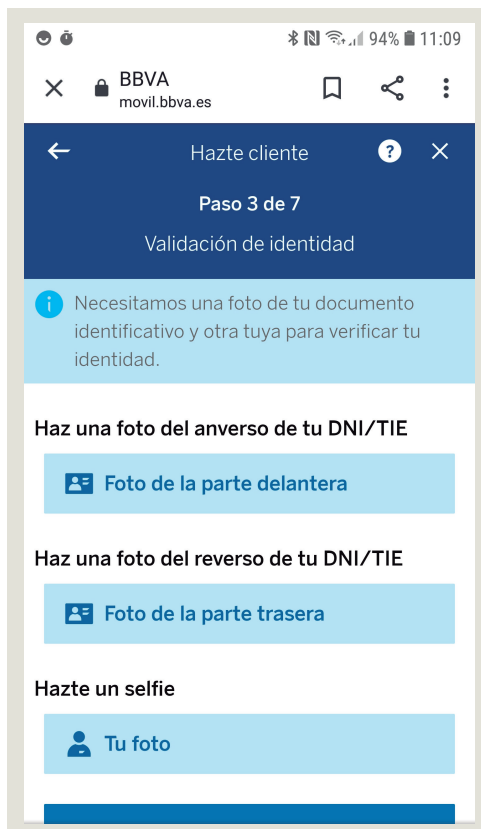
BBVA, Consumer Banking, Spain
Onboarding via the desktop website prompts a video call, because you are likely to be at home or in a relatively private environment, whereas using a mobile device offers less intrusive options. Once the photographic evidence, selfies and short videos are supplied, the account is fully operational.

Best Practice #5 examples:
Don't be intrusive: Respect your customer's privacy
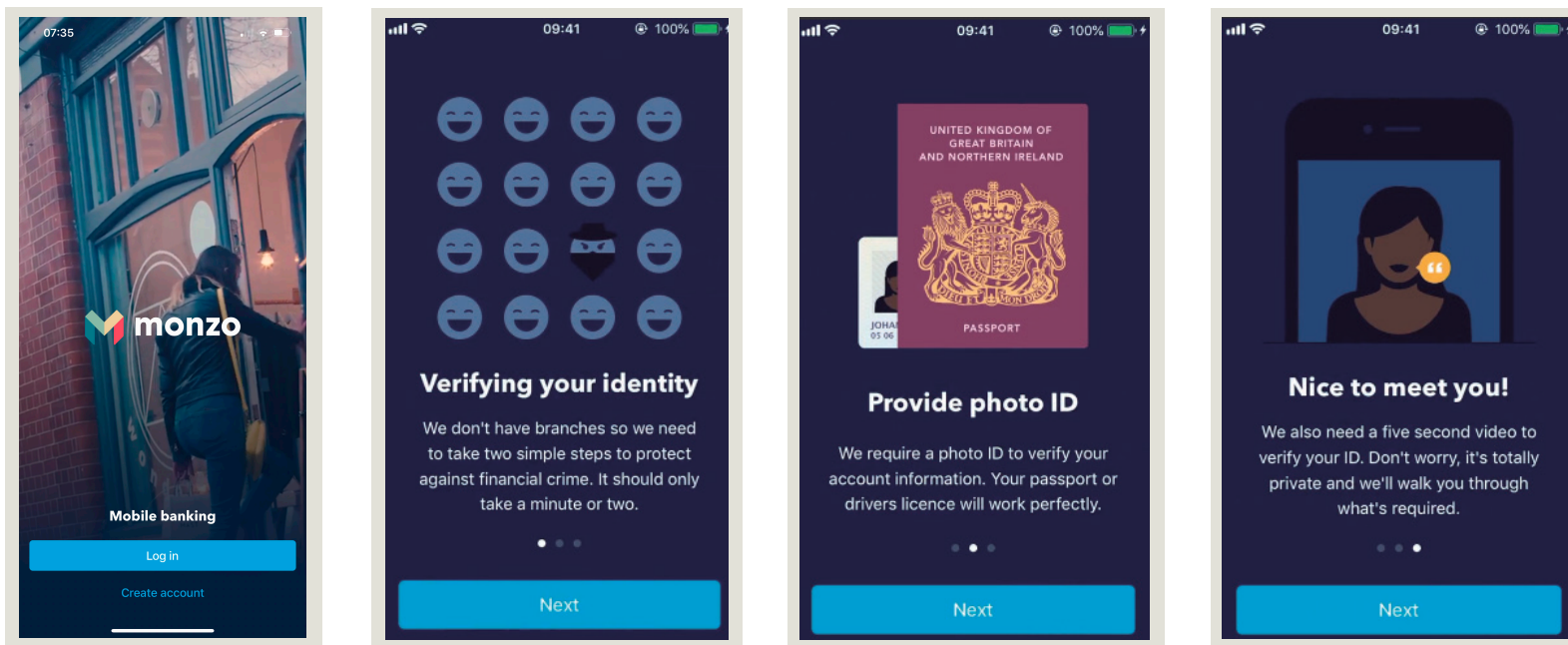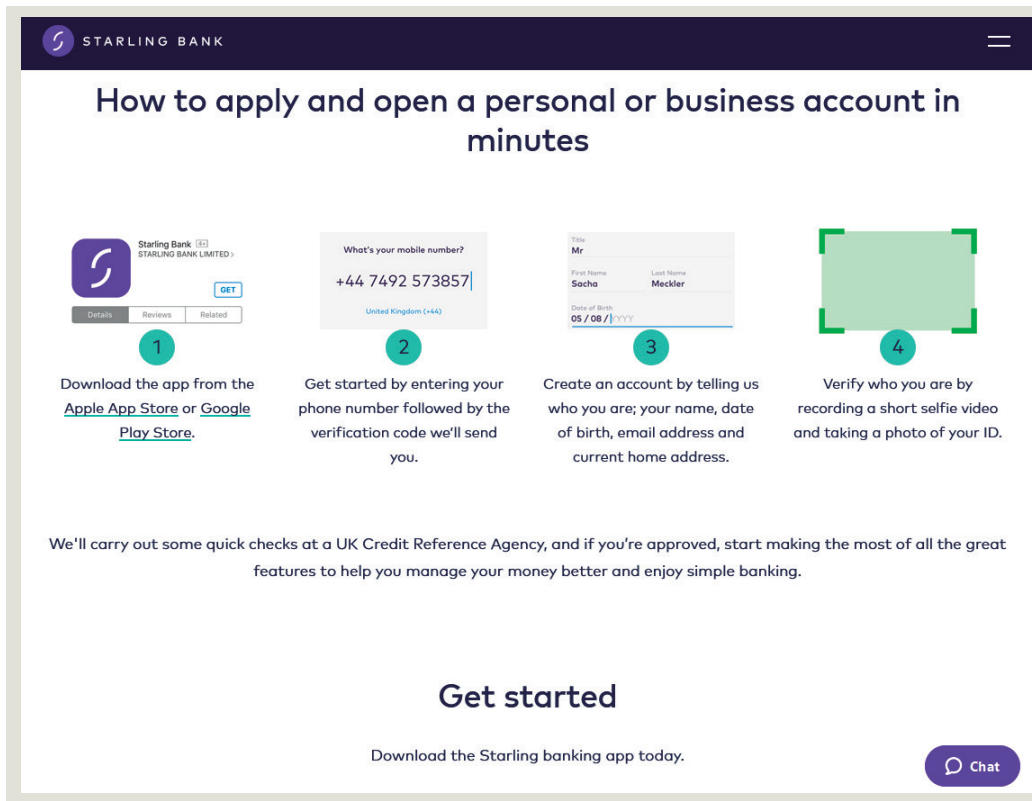
MONZO, Consumer Banking, UK
To verify you just take a photo of your ID, a selfie and record a short video. There's a reminder that it's private and that there will be instructions, hints and tips before it starts so that the user can find a suitable location.

Best Practice #5 examples:
Don't be intrusive: Respect your customer's privacy

STARLING, Consumer Banking, UK
The website forewarns the customer of the sign up process and that photographic evidence and video selfie will be required so they can be prepared.

Best Practice #5 examples:

Don't be intrusive: Respect your customer's privacy
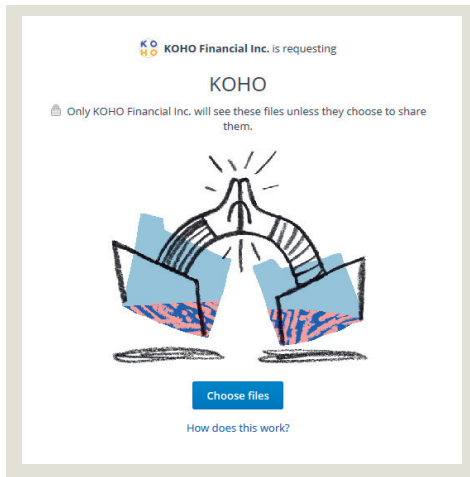
KOHO, Consumer Banking, Canada
Upload the required ID and proof documents through a secure Dropbox account.
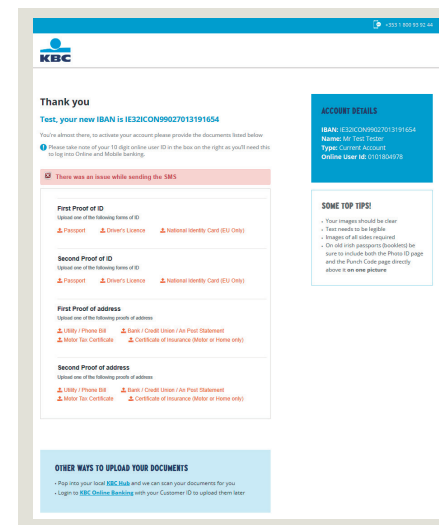
KBC, Consumer Banking, Ireland
Upload the required ID and proof documents whenever you are ready to proceed.

Best Practice #6:
Motivate the customer throughout the process

Rewarding the customer helps them feel they have gained something of value from the business so, they are more likely to be invested in continuing and completing the process.

The reward could be to immediately open the account or issue the card or access credentials after just a few, simple questions rather than having to wait until they fully complete a lengthy process that is sometimes necessary in financial services. This does not mean the customer has full access to what they want – that can only be achieved once they complete the full process – but the impression is given that the account is ready for them to use almost immediately.

For example, the onboarding journey starts with 'soft' steps that require very little effort from the customer, e.g. entering their name, contact details and accepting terms and conditions, for which they are rewarded with the account being 'opened'. Then, to have full access to the account, they have to complete the 'hard' steps that take more effort, e.g. proving identity or providing documents.

In essence, encourage new users to continue the journey to becoming a customer by providing value as quickly as possible in the process.

Best Practice #6 examples:
Motivate the customer throughout the process

KBC, Consumer Banking, Ireland
KBC's website features a promise that you can 'Get your IBAN when you apply online', which raises the expectation that the customer can start banking more or less immediately without having to wait.

Best Practice #6 examples:

Motivate the customer throughout the process

OPENBANK, Consumer Banking, Spain
After completing just 7 basic fields and clicking two confirmation boxes the IBAN is issued for the account, which takes less than 1 minute and gives the feeling that you have something of value very quickly.

Best Practice #6 examples:

Motivate the customer throughout the process

KBC, Consumer Banking, Ireland

The next section of the sign up process has the statement '<name>, you'll have your IBAN in just a few minutes!' which reinforces the KBC promise and keeps the customer interested. The promise is delivered when the account IBAN and online user ID are issued before starting the verification and confirmation steps. This makes it feel like the onboarding is almost finished and encourages the customer to continue.

Best Practice #6 examples:

Motivate the customer throughout the process

TANGERINE, Consumer Banking, USA
The sign up process starts with a welcome and reminder of what the customer will need to complete the process. The process is then split into 4 short sections, with the first asking for the customer's contact details and their choice of access credentials, and the second section asking for their personal ID information.

Best Practice #6 examples:

Motivate the customer throughout the process

TANGERINE, Consumer Banking, USA
Sections 3 of this short process lets the customer search for and confirm their address details, then prompts them to review everything they've entered before asking for their consent and preference information.

Best Practice #6 examples:

Motivate the customer throughout the process

TANGERINE, Consumer Banking, USA
The last step of the process is where the customer sets up their other access credentials, including a DoubleSafe picture, phrase and answers to secret questions. Once complete, the account is opened and available for use.

Best Practice #6 examples:
Motivate the customer throughout the process
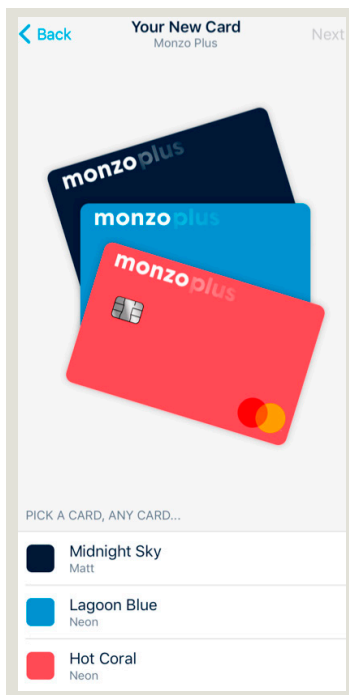
ME BANK, Consumer Banking, Australia
Personalise the colour of the debit card during the onboarding process, rewarding the customer with a personal choice.
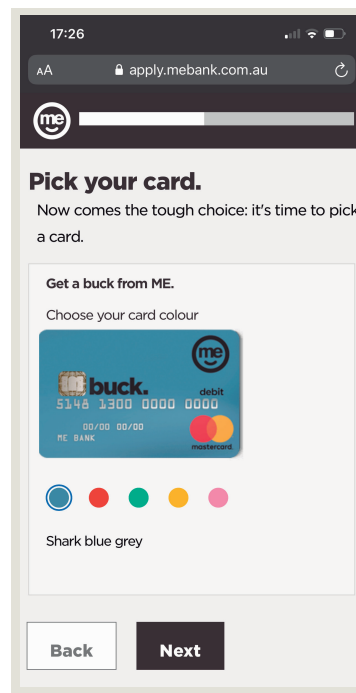
MONZO, Consumer Banking, UK
Select one of 3 colour choices for the card during the onboarding process.
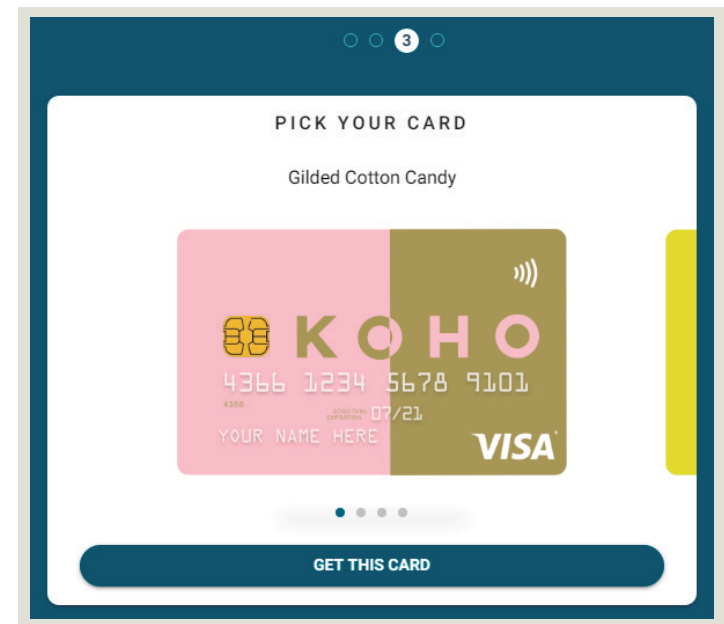
KOHO, Consumer Banking, Canada
Select one of 4 colour choices for the card during the onboarding process.

Best Practice #7:
Be ready to hold their hand

Actively helping customers throughout the sign-up process ensures they know what to expect and that any onboarding questions or concerns are immediately answered to reduce likelihood of them abandoning the process due to lack of information or clarity.

However, just providing a self-serve FAQ, video explainers or a link to a 'contact us' page is not enough. It needs to be in context of what the customer is doing at this exact moment in time. For example, if they hesitate when providing an answer or change their answer then it may be a sign of confusion or uncertainty of what to do next.

This is when help becomes relevant – real-time assistance only when they need it and in the context of the current question or step. It may take the form of simple explanatory text to give examples of what to provide for a particular answer, or a check-mark for giving a valid answer in a field, or a contextual chat-bot that pops-up and asks if they need help about the specific item.

Also, if you have a retail network then there is a huge opportunity to link 'clicks to bricks' and provide local support to new customers by highlighting the contact details of the branch close to the customer´s address.

Best Practice #7 examples:
Be ready to hold their hand
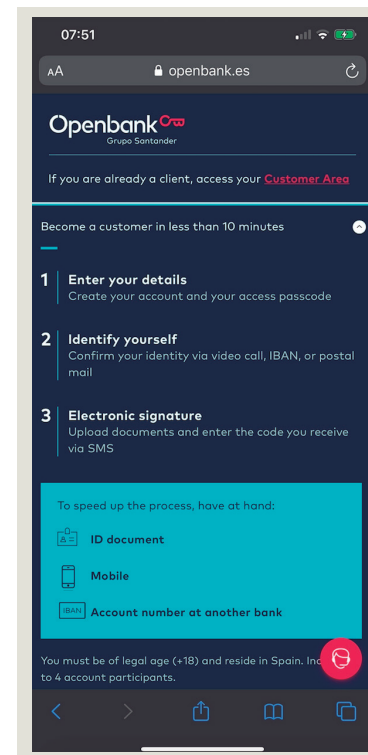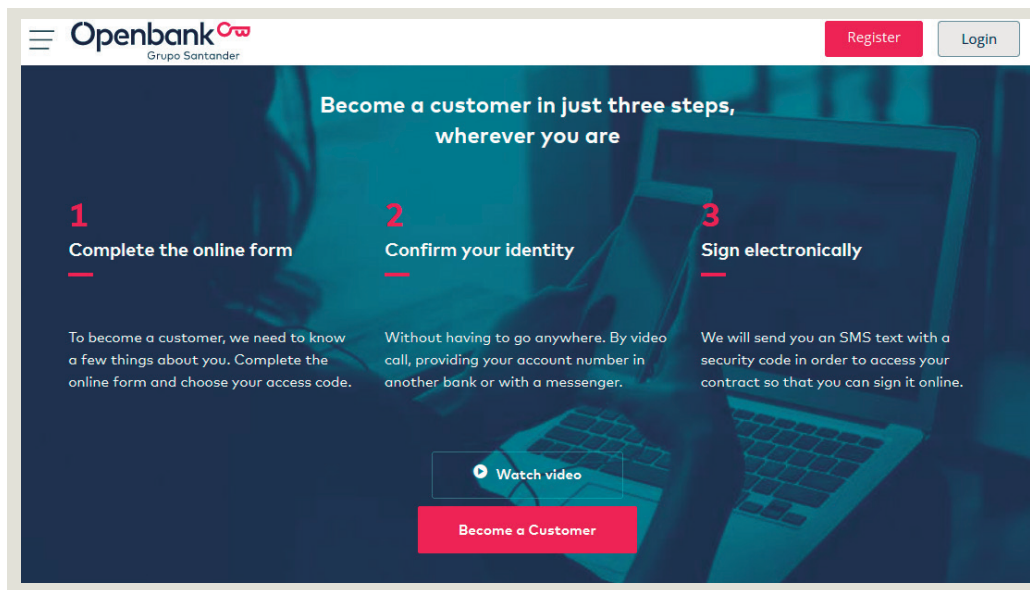
OPENBANK, Consumer Banking, Spain
The process is split into 3 simple steps. The documents to have at hand section helps to speed up the process and the legal requirements are also clear to reduce bad experiences. There is a "Call me Back function" ready to assist you if you need it, and a video to explain the process.

Best Practice #7 examples:
Be ready to hold their hand

Citizens Access, Consumer Banking, USA
Process is split into 5 steps, each capturing related information supported by words of encouragement, e.g. 'by the way, you're already on step 1.' There is also a progress bar and bold reminders of which step the user is on.

Best Practice #7 examples:
Be ready to hold their hand
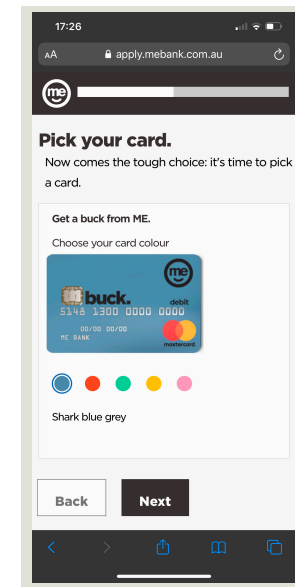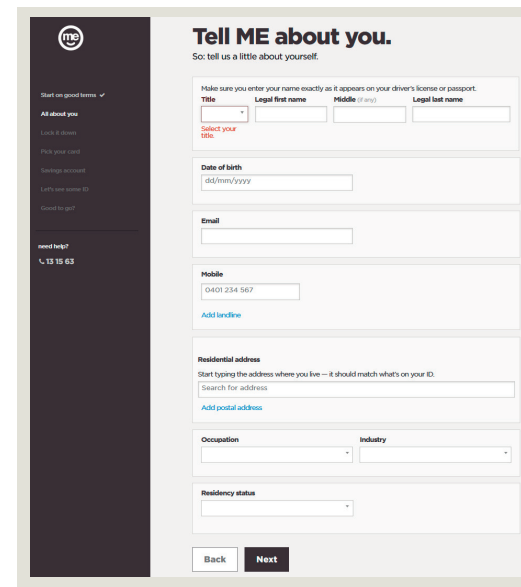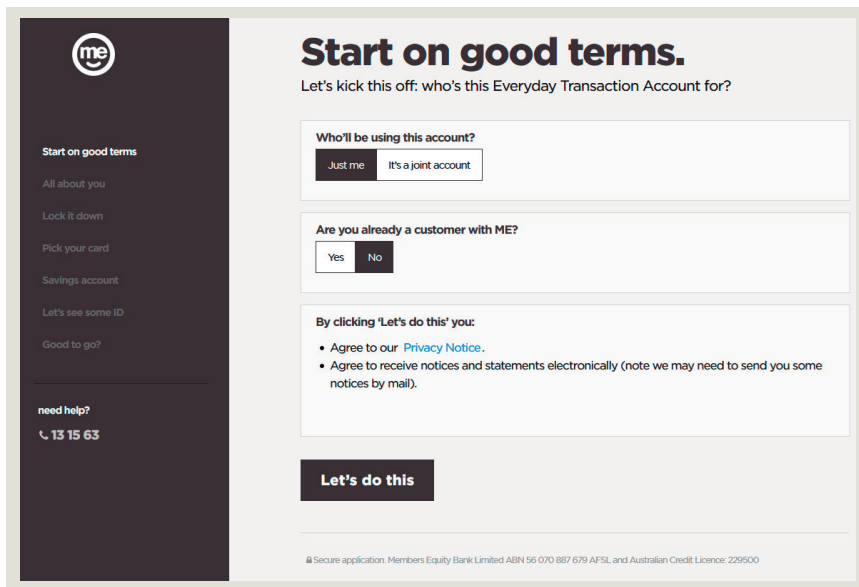
ME BANK, Consumer Banking, Australia
The mobile onboarding process has a sticky bar that's always present with the user's progress to manage expectations. On the desktop version it's a tick-list, whereas on mobile it's a progress bar.

Best Practice #7 examples:
Be ready to hold their hand

ALLY BANK, Consumer Banking, USA
The process is split into 3 simple steps, which summarises the information required during sign-up and also re-iterates the key customer benefits of completing the process.

Best Practice #7 examples:

Be ready to hold their hand
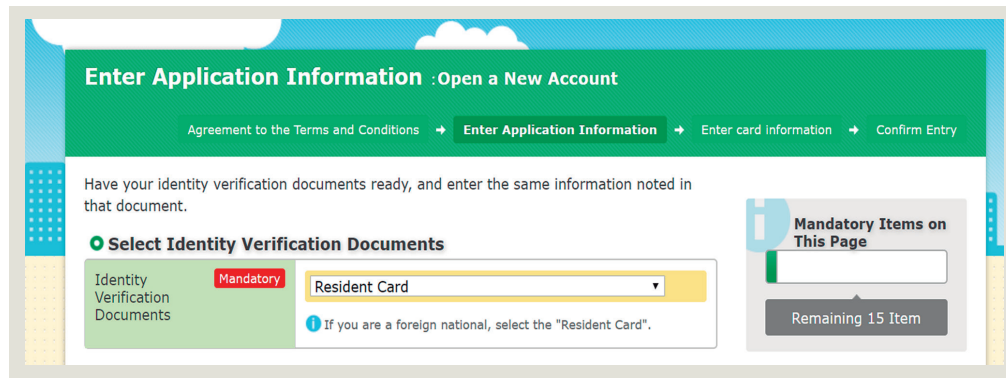
SEVEN BANK, Consumer Banking, Japan
The remaining number of mandatory items to complete is shown on the right of the screen.
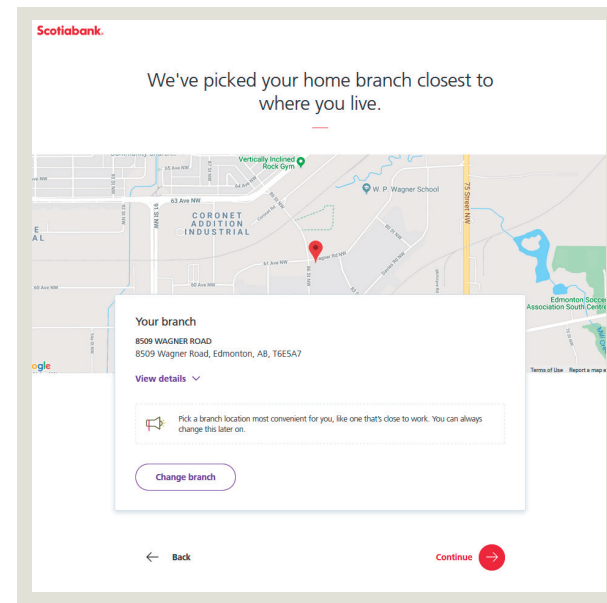
SCOTIABANK, Consumer Banking, Canada
When you enter an address it automatically links you with a branch office close to you for more personal onboarding support if you need it.

Best Practice #7 examples:

Be ready to hold their hand

KBC, Consumer Banking, Ireland
Related information is grouped and all on the same page. Entries are selected mostly from drop down options. Field checking ensures the content is valid, and a green tick when each has been completed correctly.

Best Practice #7 examples:
Be ready to hold their hand

Huntington, Consumer Banking, USA
Data entry is mostly selected from drop down options. Field checking ensures the content is valid, and a green tick when each has been completed correctly. The first page asks for the user's name and then each subsequent page refers to them by name. There is an 'ask us' button that launches an automated assistant for help at any time.

Best of the rest

In the following pages N5 presents additional examples of financial services providers that are being innovative in alternative ways.

Best of the rest: Examples
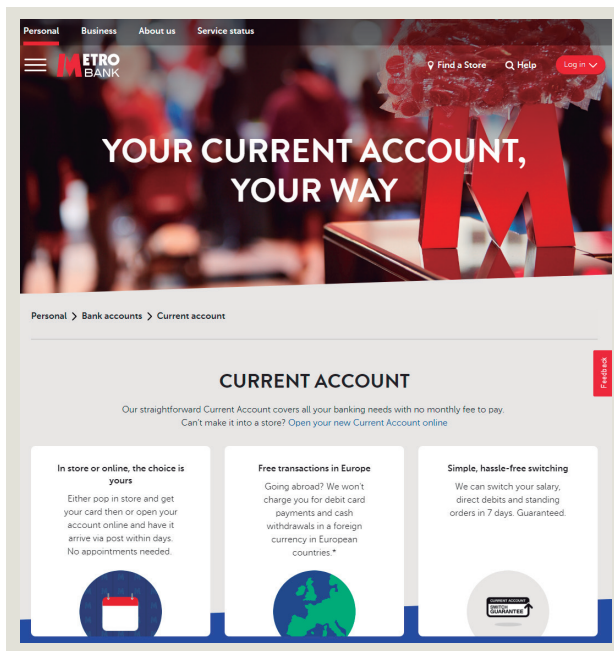
METRO BANK, Consumer Banking, UK
Card can also be printed in branch while you wait.
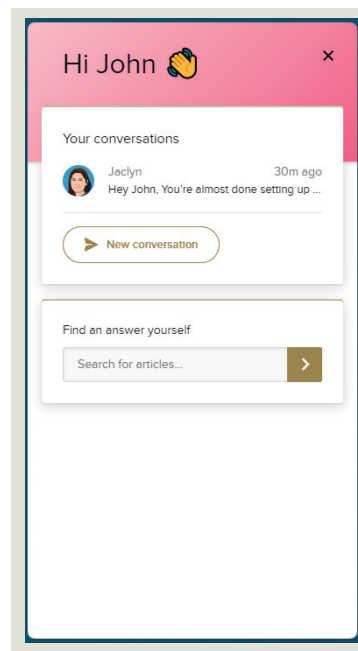
KOHO, Consumer Banking, Canada
Live chat includes named individuals for different types of questions.
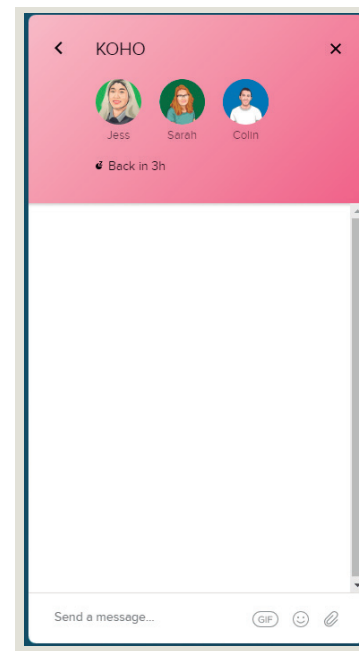
Best of the rest: Examples
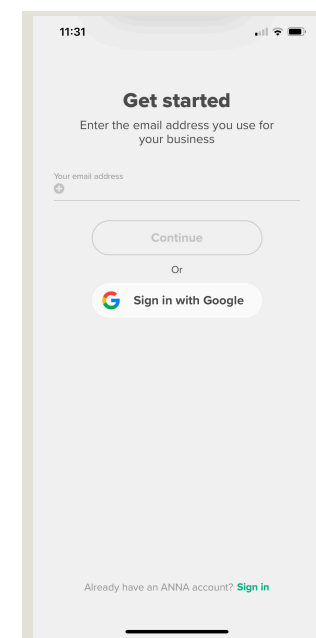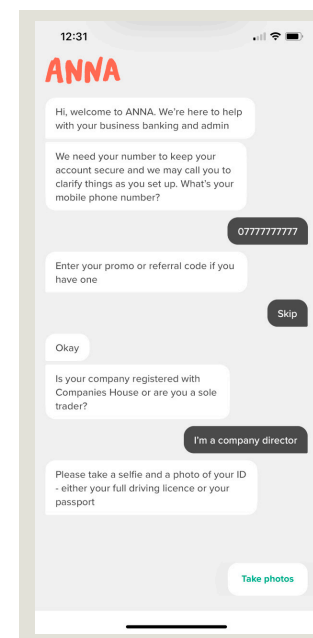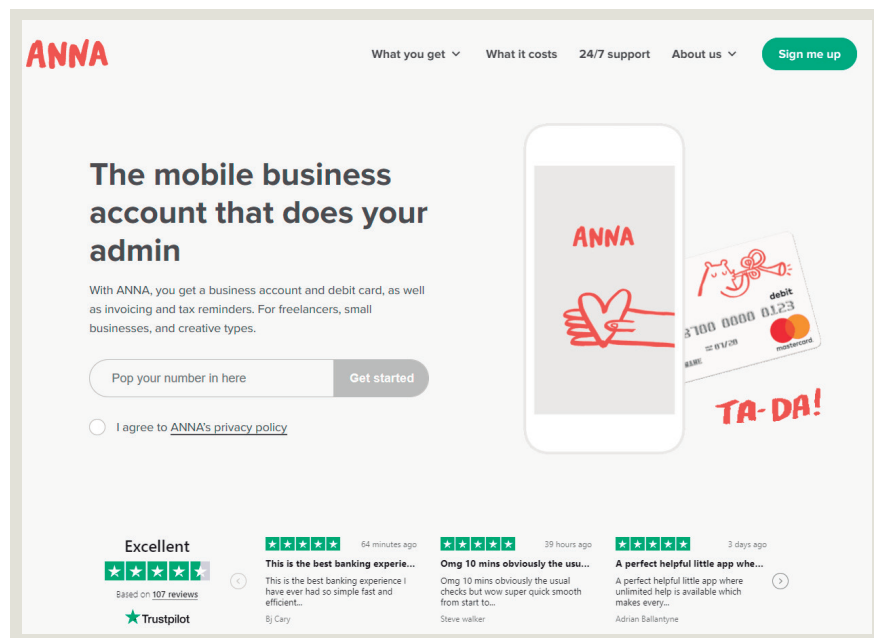
ANNA, Business Banking, UK
Sign up and log in using a Google account.
Also, very simple 'chat' approach to answer
questions during the sign up process.

Best of the rest: Examples
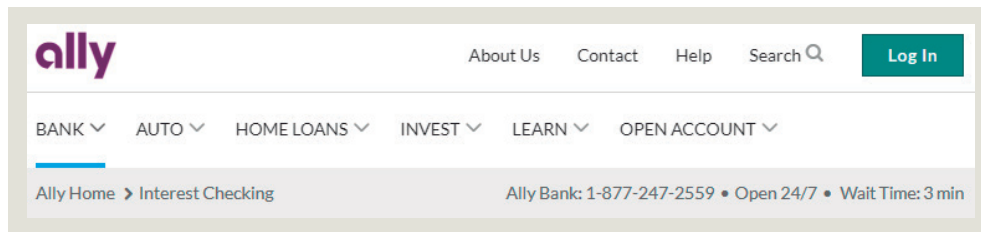
ALLY BANK, Consumer Banking, USA
Promotes telephone support 24/7 with an
indication of the likely queue wait time.
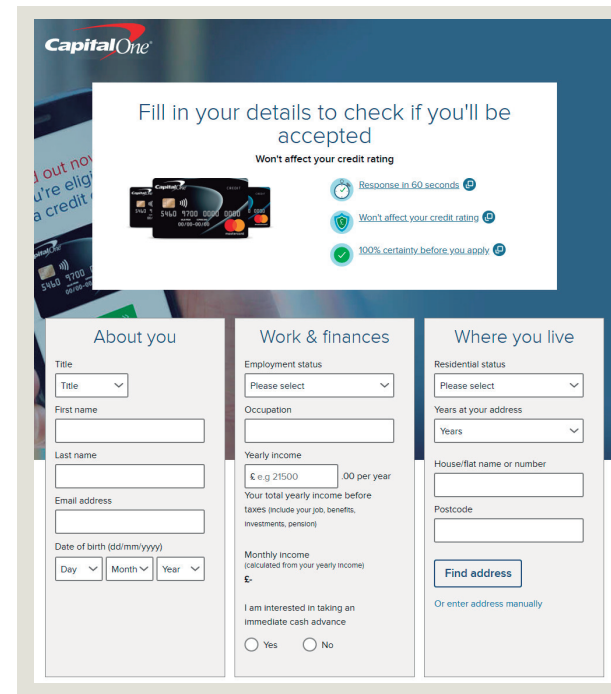
CAPITAL ONE, Credit Cards, UK
An eligibility checker ensures the applicant
doesn't waste their time.

Best of the rest: Examples
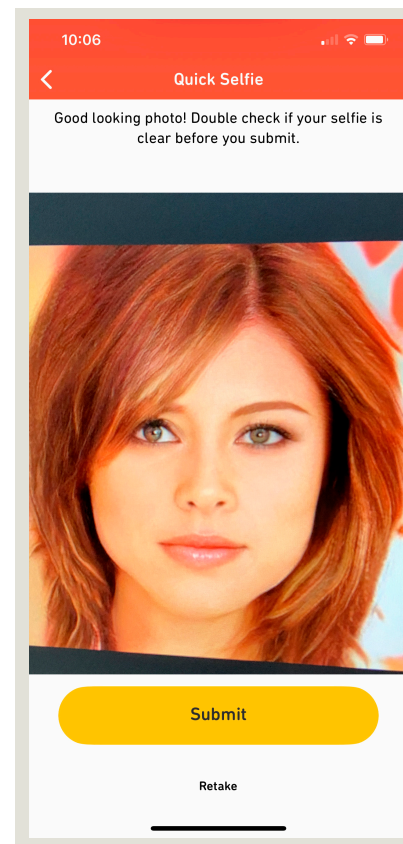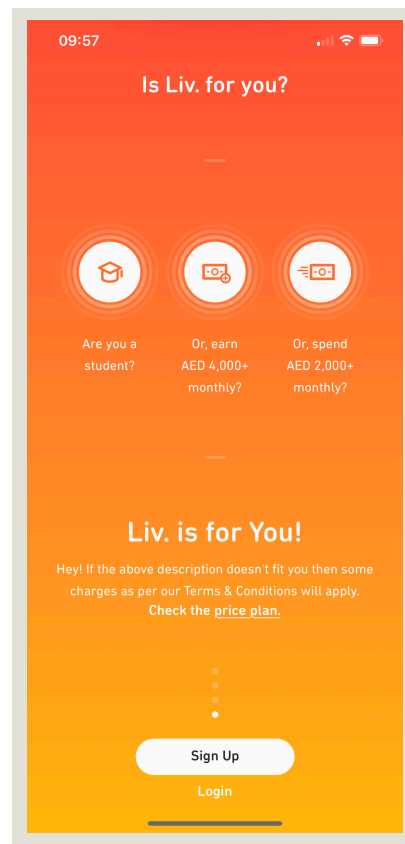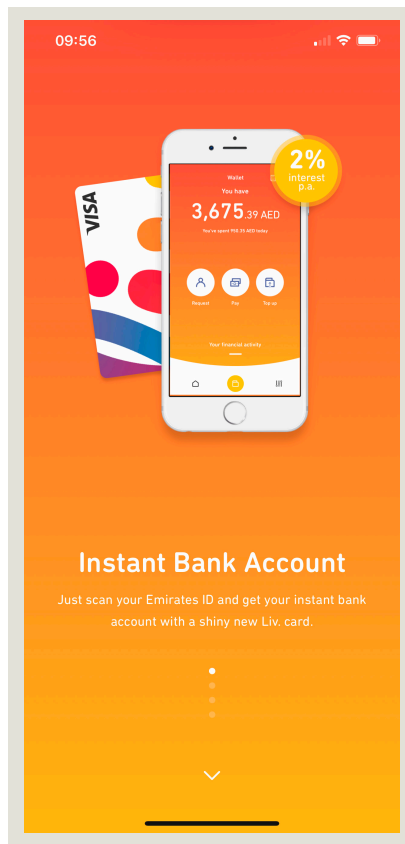
LIV. Consumer Banking, UAE
The instant bank account opened by just scanning the customer's national ID card, which is verified through a selfie.

Best of the rest: Examples

COUNTINGUP, Business Banking, UK
Integrated business banking and accounting aimed at small and medium enterprises.

Best of the rest: Examples

ALLY BANK, Consumer Banking, USA
Self-help and advice to help consumers understand and manage their money better through videos, events and courses.

Onboarding: How to accelerate transformation

How N5 can help you accelerate transformation of your customer onboarding experience.

Steps to transforming

1 | Establish the desired objectives

2 | Define how success will be measured, particularly in terms of the customer experience and impact on commercial performance

3 | Assess the existing process to establish what's working well and what's not

4 | Benchmark against customer and market expectations, best practices and specific competitor approaches

5 | Gather inspiration from best practice ideas that are appropriate for the market and customers

6 | Recommend feature gaps and opportunities to improve

7 | Prioritise recommendations according to fit with the objectives and the ease of implementation

8 | Plan development and implementation as a series of agile deployments

9 | Trial each deployment with a subset of customers before full roll-out

10 | Continually test, learn and refine

How N5 can help

N5 provides technology and services that would accelerate and optimise transformation of your digital onboarding processes, for example:

· **Evaluating your business processes and proposing recommendations for how they could be improved.**

· **Creating a tailored end-to-end digital onboarding solution that follows or surpasses best practice to enhance or replace the existing.**

· **Designing customer-facing screens for web and mobile apps that really engage customers.**

· **Implementing sophisticated technology to enable best practice processes and decisions.**

N5 has unique people talent that are experts in transforming end-to-end commercial processes in financial services and undertake benchmarking assessments and produce recommendations for improvement across customer onboarding, growth and retention.

N5 provides Intelligent Commercial Systematics™ technology designed exclusively for financial services that makes it easy to unlock value by accelerating and optimising customer growth opportunities in this hyper-connected world.

If you would like to discuss how N5 can accelerate and optimise your business processes, please send an email to:
JulianHelpMeWithMyOnboarding@n5now.com
Or scan the QR code on this page.

How to start improving...for free

N5 would be pleased to offer you a free, no-obligation benchmarking assessment of your digital onboarding process and propose initial recommendations for how it could be improved to follow or surpass best practice.

The assessment is undertaken by our experts through remote analysis of your customer-facing digital website and mobile app, which we typically do without having to impact your resources. We score the existing onboarding journey using the N5 proprietary scorecard that evaluates over 100 different customer-facing functionalities to identify areas that are already a good experience, or that could be a better experience for your customers.

The results are then shared with you, ideally by walking through the findings and recommendation with you directly.

To arrange your free, no-obligation assessment please drop us an email to: JulianHelpMeWithMyOnboarding@n5now.com or scan the QR code on this page.

About N5

N5 is a company of experienced banking and IT professionals that have built, exclusively for Financial Services, the most sophisticated, scalable, real-time platform for CRM, sales, risk, collections, service and admin, that enables smarter, faster business intelligence.

N5 makes it easy to quickly unlock the value that mainstream software could not achieve by accelerating and optimising customer growth opportunities. The use of our platform has enabled our several LATAM clients to generate over 20% increases in profitable revenue, step-changes in NPS, and significant reductions in expected losses and distribution costs.

Our aim is to deliver first operational value within 100 days through our unique people talent of end-to-end experts that ensure transformation that sticks.

Our technology fuses proven, state-of-the-art universal integration of data, predictive analytics, decisioning and reporting capabilities that enables a complete view of each customer and their optimised sales and service actions; management of customer strategies, journeys and activity execution; governance and control of end-to-end commercial processes; activity performance monitoring and continuous learning; and supervision of front-line staff activities, time-management and incentives...

...all in real-time and in one, cohesive solution called N5 Intelligent Commercial Systematics.™

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