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Why Paper Trading Is Smart

By Yvonne Volante

Do you paper trade? Paper trading of securities is an excellent way of jumping in and learn the ropes of investing. Some thoughts about learning investing through paper trading.

Some people read books on trading and investing, go to various seminars, paying hundreds or sometimes even thousands of dollars to get educated, but still don't get to the point where they actually put in their trades. They like the idea of acquiring knowledge, pondering investment strategies and thinking about various trades they might like to make. However somehow they just don't seem to do anything with the knowledge they acquire. They don't put their investment strategies into action and they never really make the trades they are constantly thinking about.

Paper trading is a form of simulation and therefore, like all simulations, it has certain advantages:

– It offers great learning potential. – There is no financial risk involved. You can't lose money.

However, inherent in all forms of simulation is also a number of disadvantages. For paper trading disadvantages are:

– Unlike most other forms of simulation, there is no real way to speed up the process. Of course you could start with historical prices, but the whole exercise tends to get a bit artificial that way. – There are no financial benefits. You can't make money. – There are no financial risks. You can't lose money. – It just isn't real.

The first and second disadvantage seem obvious. The third may appear strange at first, especially since it was also listed as an advantage. Some of you might wonder: "How can the absence of financial risk ever be a disadvantage?". To answer that question we just have to look at the fourth disadvantage, which ties them all together. This last one really is the big one. The lack of any true financial implications seriously inhibits the learning effect. No matter how much you think, speculate, simulate or however you would like to call it, until you actually put your money where your mouth is, it just isn't real. We tend to learn most from our mistakes, especially mistakes that hurt. If it doesn't hurt it just doesn't have the same effect.

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It's like people watching a boxing match on television claiming they would never give up if they were up there. Statements like: "You can knock me out, but you can't make me give up" are easy to make. The truth is that most people making such a statement have never experienced a situation even remotely like it. If they would actually find themselves in that ring, facing an opponent, most of their bravery would vanish in less than an instant. As soon as they would start to feel some of the pain that those fighters have to endure, most would quickly sing to a different tune and leave the ring.

"But that's physical pain. That's different." you might say. Fact is that emotional pain can be just as intense and even worse. Take someone that has lost something dear to him; whether it is a loved one, a relationship or his life's savings. Then ask him the following question: "Knowing what you know now, if you could do it over again and you could choose between physical pain, in the form of a beating, or losing whatever it is you lost, which would you choose?". Most would opt for the beating without a second thought. Doesn't make sense? Well maybe not, until something like that happens to you or

someone you know.

There is no doubt that paper trading is a good, safe alternative to starting out cold when beginning investing. Just remember, when you start for real and are earning or losing your own money, you're in the big leagues and things start to change. Hang on for the ride and good luck!

To learn more about other types of investments, be sure to check out

<http://www.amutualfunds.com>

Yvonne Volante, the author, is an investor and writes for [ycinvestment.com](http://www.ycinvestment.com), which is the premier investment resource on the internet. You can see all of the articles over at

<http://www.ycinvestment.com>

Online Forex Trading Strategies

By Oliver Turner

Forex trading strategies are the key to successful forex trading or online currency trading. A knowledge of these forex trading strategies can mean the difference between a profit and a loss and it is therefore imperative that you fully understand the strategies used in forex trading.

Forex trading is very different from trading in stocks and using forex trading strategies will give you more advantages and help you realize even greater profits in the short term. There are a wide range of forex trading strategies available to investors and one of the most useful of these forex trading strategies is a strategy known as leverage.

This forex trading strategy is designed to allow online currency traders to avail of more funds than are deposited and by using this forex trading strategy you can maximize the forex trading benefits. Using

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this strategy you can actually utilize as much as 100 times the amount in your deposit account against any forex trade which will make backing higher yielding transactions even easier and therefore allowing better results in your forex trading

The leverage forex trading strategy is used on a regular basis and allows investors to take advantage of short term fluctuations in the forex market.

Another commonly used forex trading strategy is known as the stop loss order. This forex trading strategy is used to protect investors and it creates a predetermined point at which the investor will not trade. Using this forex trading strategy allows investors to minimize losses. This strategy can however, backfire and the investor can run the risk of stopping their forex trading which could actually go higher and it really is up to the individual trader to choose whether or not to use this forex trading strategy.

An automatic entry order is another of the forex trading strategies that is commonly used and this strategy is used to allow investors to enter into forex trading when the price is right for them. The price is predetermined and once reached the investor will automatically enter into the trading.

All these forex trading strategies are designed to help investors get the most from their forex trading and help to minimize their losses. As mentioned earlier knowledge of these forex trading strategies is vital if you wish to be successful in forex trading.

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