

BEGINNER TO INTERMEDIATE

READ THE MARKET. PROTECT THE ACCOUNT.

A focused field guide to structure,
confirmation, risk, execution, and review.



A practical foundation. No hype. No shortcuts.

Educational guide by TheDopestTraders

START HERE

A small process beats a crowded chart

Most beginners do not need another indicator. They need a repeatable way to answer five questions before risking money.

1

What is price doing?

Read the sequence of highs and lows. Direction begins with structure, not opinion.

2

Where is the setup?

Mark the level that matters. A signal in the middle of nowhere has weak context.

3

What confirms it?

Define the close or reaction that proves the idea has earned your attention.

4

Where is it wrong?

Choose invalidation before entry. If you cannot define the stop, you do not have a trade.

5

Is the reward worth the risk?

There must be enough clean room to the next obstacle. A beautiful entry with poor room is still a poor trade.

The goal is not to predict every move. The goal is to make one clear decision at a time.

Important: This guide teaches decision-making principles. It does not reveal TSK scanner formulas, settings, proprietary signal logic, or the full strategy.

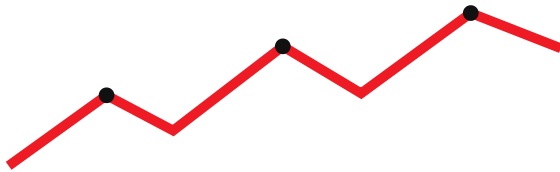
MARKET STRUCTURE

Price tells a story through highs and lows

Before looking for an entry, decide whether buyers, sellers, or neither side is controlling the current swing.

Bullish structure

Price is generally building higher highs and higher lows. Buyers are defending pullbacks and expanding above prior swing highs.



Bearish structure

Price is generally building lower lows and lower highs. Sellers are rejecting rallies and expanding below prior swing lows.



Break of structure (BOS)

A break of structure occurs when price moves through a meaningful prior swing point. The key word is **meaningful**. Tiny internal fluctuations can create noise; focus on swings that clearly shaped the move you are trading.

Beginner rule: Mark the most obvious recent swing high and swing low. If you need to force the level, it probably is not the level.

Do not confuse movement with direction

- A single large candle does not automatically change the trend.
- A wick through a level is not the same as a decisive close through it.
- Sideways structure is information. Sometimes the best trade is no trade.

CONTEXT

A valid pattern can still be a bad trade

Context tells you whether a setup has space to work. Check location, nearby obstacles, and the market's current condition before entering.

Location

Is price reacting at a level that mattered before, or is the setup forming in the middle of a messy range?

Room

Is there clean space to the next opposing level, or are you entering directly into resistance or support?

Condition

Is price trending, ranging, or expanding violently? The same entry pattern behaves differently in each condition.

Timing

Is the market active enough for the instrument, and are you entering before a major scheduled catalyst?

Signal quality is not only what happened. It is also where it happened.

Intermediate upgrade: separate bias from trigger

Your **bias** is the direction you are prepared to trade. Your **trigger** is the event that allows you to enter. Keeping them separate prevents a bullish opinion from becoming a premature buy.

Decision	Question
Bias	Which side currently controls the relevant structure?
Trigger	What must close, break, or retest before entry?
Invalidation	What price action proves the idea is wrong?

CONFIRMATION

Let price earn the entry

Prediction feels fast. Confirmation feels slow. The second approach gives you evidence before you commit.

1. Structure breaks

>

2. Price confirms

>

3. Retest earns entry**1. Break**

A meaningful swing level gives way. This gets the setup on your radar; it is not automatic permission to chase.

2. Confirm

A later candle closes with control on the intended side of the level. Define exactly what counts before the move happens.

3. Retest

Price returns to test the area and shows that the new side can hold. No retest means no entry under this framework.

4. Invalidate

The stop belongs beyond the point that disproves the idea, not at a random distance chosen to make the position larger.

No retest, no entry. Missing a trade costs less than chasing one.

Keep it objective: Write what a confirming close and a valid retest look like in your plan. Different instruments and timeframes can require different handling. Do not improvise the definition after price starts moving.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Your first job is to stay in the game

A setup can be wrong and still be a good trade. The difference is whether you followed the plan and kept the loss controlled.

Fix risk before entry

Choose a small percentage or dollar amount you can accept losing without changing your behavior.

Size to the stop

Set the stop at invalidation first. Then reduce or increase position size so the loss at that stop matches your risk limit.

Hypothetical example: On a \$5,000 account, risking 1% means the maximum planned loss is \$50. Position size should be adjusted so a stop-out equals approximately \$50, before fees and slippage.

The risk unit: R

One **R** is the amount you risk on a trade. If your risk is \$50, then -1R is -\$50, +2R is +\$100, and +3R is +\$150. Thinking in R lets you compare trades without being distracted by account size.

Trade	Result	Account effect at \$50 risk
A	-1R	-\$50
B	-1R	-\$50
C	+3R	+\$150
Total	+1R	+\$50

The example is for education only. Contract size, pip value, fees, slippage, leverage, and broker rules vary by instrument and platform.

EXECUTION

A trade plan should fit on one screen

If your rules are too complicated to check in real time, they will disappear when pressure arrives.

Pre-entry checklist

- ☐ I can describe the current structure in one sentence.
- ☐ The setup is at a level that matters, not in random space.
- ☐ The break and confirmation meet my written rules.
- ☐ The retest has occurred; I am not chasing expansion.
- ☐ My invalidation level is clear and my stop is placed there.
- ☐ Position size matches my fixed risk limit.
- ☐ There is enough room to my target before the next obstacle.
- ☐ I know whether major scheduled news affects this trade.

Before entry

Write the entry, stop, target, risk, and one-sentence reason. If one field is missing, pause.

After entry

Do not widen the stop to avoid being wrong. Manage only according to the plan you made while calm.

Discipline is not a feeling. It is a rule followed when the outcome is still unknown.

REVIEW

Your journal should diagnose the process

A win can hide a bad decision. A loss can come from a correctly executed setup. Review the process separately from the result.

Record	Why it matters
Chart screenshot	Shows the real structure and location before hindsight rewrites the story.
Bias and trigger	Reveals whether the entry matched the setup you intended to trade.
Entry, stop, target, R	Makes risk and reward comparable across different instruments.
Rule followed?	Separates strategy performance from execution mistakes.
Emotion	Identifies patterns such as fear, boredom, urgency, or revenge.

Setup loss

Rules were followed, but the market invalidated the idea. Accept it and keep the sample.

Execution loss

A rule was broken: early entry, oversized risk, moved stop, or trade outside the plan.

Weekly review: Group trades by setup and rule adherence. Ask, "Which behavior should I repeat? Which single mistake must I remove next week?"

Simple journal entry

Date / instrument / timeframe / direction / setup / entry / stop / target / planned R / result in R / rule followed / one lesson

NEXT 14 DAYS

Build the skill before adding size

Use replay or a demo environment. The objective is clean repetition, not a dollar target.

1

Days 1-3: Structure

Mark obvious swing highs and lows on 20 charts. Label each chart bullish, bearish, or range. No entries.

2

Days 4-6: Context

Mark the setup location and nearest obstacle. Reject every example that forms in unclear space.

3

Days 7-9: Confirmation

Replay breaks, closes, and retests one candle at a time. Record which setups never retested.

4

Days 10-12: Risk

Practice setting invalidation first, then calculate size for one fixed risk amount.

5

Days 13-14: Full process

Take only checklist-qualified demo trades. Journal each one, then review rule adherence before profit or loss.

Clarity first. Confirmation second. Risk always.

Your next move: Choose one instrument, one session, and one setup to study. Consistency makes feedback useful.

ONE-PAGE FIELD CARD

The TDT core decision loop

1. Read structure

Higher highs and lows, lower highs and lows, or range?

2. Check context

Meaningful location, clean room, suitable condition, sensible timing?

3. Demand confirmation

Break, confirming close, then retest. No retest, no entry.

4. Define invalidation

Where is the idea objectively wrong?

5. Control risk

Size the position so a stop-out stays within the fixed risk limit.

6. Execute and review

Follow the plan, record the trade, and grade the process before the outcome.

My instrument

My setup

My session

My confirmation

My fixed risk

My invalidation

Keep the standard high: A quality trade met your rules and protected your capital.