BREAKEVEN - THE LINE THAT MATTERS

Vajgrt Labs - Education - Lesson 43 of 72 - 3 min read - Updated Oct 21, 2026

TL;DR

- Breakeven = strike + premium paid. It’s the line that matters.
- A 773 call bought for 18.38 needs SPY past 791.38 - not 773.
- Draw the line on your chart the day you buy. No line, no trade.

THE TAKEAWAYS

- Breakeven = strike + premium paid. Your 773C needs SPY past 791.38, not 773.
- Draw the breakeven line on your TradingView chart the day you buy.
- If price can’t plausibly reach it in time, the trade is wrong - pass.

RULE: No breakeven line on the chart, no trade.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Watching the strike instead of the breakeven line.
- Taking a trade price can’t plausibly reach in time.
- Not drawing the line on the chart the day you buy.
- Holding to expiry on hope after the line is out of reach.

DO IT ON PAPER

In TradingView, take a SPY option you’re studying and draw a horizontal line at its breakeven - strike + premium. Leave it on the chart. That is the line the trade has to beat.

Education only - not financial advice. Options involve substantial risk of loss. Examples use real SPY chain data from Oct 9, 2026. Vajgrt Labs - Education.