PAPER TRADING - THE ONLY FREE LUNCH

Vajgrt Labs - Education - Lesson 7 of 72 - 6 min read - Updated Oct 21, 2026

TL;DR

- Paper trading is the mandatory bridge between theory and money: mechanics, order types, chain navigation, and the journaling habit - practised free.

- It cannot teach emotion, fills, slippage, or liquidity - and "house money" profits inflate risk-taking, so paper profit is not the gate. Process is.

- Stage 0 ends with a decision you make in writing: certify the prerequisites and test yourself on paper - or take the exit, with full marks.

THE TAKEAWAYS

- What paper teaches: mechanics - placing each order type, reading the chain, navigating your broker’s app - plus the journal habit, at zero financial risk.

- What it cannot teach: the emotional weight of real losses, true fills and slippage, and real liquidity at your size. Paper fills are generous in ways the market is not.

- The house-money trap: profits on fake money feel like skill and push position sizes up. The gate is process compliance - plan followed, size correct, every trade journaled - never paper profitability.

- The sequence from here is fixed: Stages 1-3 knowledge, Stage 4 risk arithmetic and your paper account under course rules, Stages 5-6 options - and live money stays optional until Stage 10: tiny, and reversible.

RULE: Paper first, process graded, profit ignored. If the process isn’t boring by the end of Stage 4, you’re not ready for Stage 5’s options.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Treating a winning paper month as proof of readiness - house money inflates exactly that conclusion.

- Skipping the journal on paper trades "because they aren’t real." The habit is the cargo; the money is not.

- Making the Stage 0 decision by drift - account first, decision never.

- Reading the exit as a verdict. It’s a scheduling and fitness decision - recorded, reversible, and respected here.

DO IT - MAKE THE DECISION

Use the decision box directly below this lesson. Certify (prerequisites met, stop-signs clear) and continue - or take the exit, for now. Either way, add one sentence under your Lesson 1 sentence: what you decided, and the date. Two sentences; that’s the whole stage, honestly done.

Education only - not financial advice. Options involve substantial risk of loss. Statistics are quoted with their source, population and period, per the course’s stats canon. Vajgrt Labs - Education.