

# **Options and Futures Trading Cheat Sheet**

A quick reference guide to options and futures trading, covering key concepts, strategies, and terminology for both beginners and experienced traders.



# **Options Basics**

### Core Concepts

Call Option	Gives the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to <i>buy</i> an asset at a specific price (strike price) on or before a specific date (expiration date).
Put Option	Gives the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to <i>sell</i> an asset at a specific price (strike price) on or before a specific date (expiration date).
Strike Price	The price at which the underlying asset can be bought (for a call) or sold (for a put) when the option is exercised.
Expiration Date	The last date on which the option can be exercised.
Premium	The price paid by the buyer to the seller (writer) for the option contract.
Underlying Asset	The asset on which the option is based (e.g., a stock, index, or commodity).

### **Option Positions**

Long Call	Buyer of a call option; profits if the underlying asset price increases.
Short Call	Seller (writer) of a call option; profits if the underlying asset price stays below the strike price or decreases. Has unlimited risk.
Long Put	Buyer of a put option; profits if the underlying asset price decreases.
Short Put	Seller (writer) of a put option; profits if the underlying asset price stays above the strike price or increases. Risk is limited to the strike price minus the premium received.

### **Option Moneyness**

#### In-the-Money (ITM)

- Call option: Underlying price > Strike price
- Put option: Underlying price < Strike price

#### At-the-Money (ATM)

• Underlying price ≈ Strike price

#### Out-of-the-Money (OTM)

- Call option: Underlying price < Strike price
- Put option: Underlying price > Strike price

# **Futures Contracts**

### **Futures Fundamentals**

Definition	A futures contract is an agreement to buy or sell an asset at a predetermined price at a specified time in the future.
Participants	Hedgers (seek to reduce risk) and Speculators (seek to profit from price movements).
Margin	A performance bond required to enter and maintain a futures position. It is <i>not</i> a down payment.
Mark-to-Market	Daily settlement process where profits and losses are credited or debited to the margin account.
Contract Specifications	Each futures contract has standardized specifications: quantity, quality, delivery location, and delivery month.

# Key Terminology

Long Position	Agreement to <i>buy</i> the underlying asset at the specified future date.
Short Position	Agreement to <i>sell</i> the underlying asset at the specified future date.
Delivery	The process of transferring the underlying asset from the seller to the buyer at the contract's expiration.
Settlement	Can be physical delivery or cash settlement, depending on the contract.

### Futures vs. Options

#### Futures:

- Obligation to buy or sell.
- Symmetrical payoff (profit or loss).
- Margin requirements.

#### Options:

- Right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell.
- Asymmetrical payoff (limited loss, unlimited profit or vice versa).
- Premium payment.

Volatility and Greeks

# **Options Strategies**

### **Basic Strategies**

Advanced	Strategies

Covered Call	Selling a call option on a stock you already own. Generates income but limits upside potential.	Bull Call Buying a call option with a lower strike price   Spread and selling a call option with a higher strike   price (both with the same expiration date).	Delta: Measures the sensitivity of an option's price to a change in the underlying asset's price. Gamma: Measures the rate of change of delta with	
Protective Put	Buying a put option on a stock you own. Limits downside risk.		Profits from a moderate increase in the underlying asset price.	respect to a change in the underlying asset's price.
Ful		Bear Put	<b>Bear Put</b> Buying a put option with a higher strike price	Theta: Measures the time decay of an option's value.
Long Straddle	Buying both a call and a put option with the same strike price and expiration date. Profits if the underlying asset price moves	Spread and selling a put option price (both with the sa	and selling a put option with a lower strike price (both with the same expiration date).	<b>Vega:</b> Measures the sensitivity of an option's price to a change in implied volatility.
	significantly in either direction.		Profits from a moderate decrease in the underlying asset price.	<b>Rho:</b> Measures the sensitivity of an option's price to a change in interest rates.
Short Straddle	Selling both a call and a put option with the same strike price and expiration date. Profits if the underlying asset price remains relatively stable.	Butterfly Spread	A combination of call or put options with three different strike prices, designed to profit from low volatility.	

### **Futures Trading Strategies**

### **Basic Strategies**

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breaks down.

<b>Risk Management</b>
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Long/Buy Short/Sell	Betting the price of the asset will increase. Profit is unlimited, and loss is limited to initial investment. Betting the price of the asset will decrease.	Spread Trading	Taking a position in two or more related futures contracts to profit from changes in the price differential (spread) between them. Examples: calendar spreads, inter-
	Profit is limited to initial price and loss potential is unlimited.	Arbitrage	market spreads. Exploiting price differences in the same asset across different markets to generate risk-free profit.
		Pair Trading	Identifying two highly correlated assets and taking opposing positions (long one, short the other) when the correlation temporarily

**Stop-Loss Orders:** Automatically exit a position when the price reaches a specified level, limiting potential losses.

**Position Sizing:** Determining the appropriate amount of capital to allocate to each trade, based on risk tolerance and account size.

**Diversification:** Spreading investments across different assets and markets to reduce overall portfolio risk.

**Hedging:** Using futures contracts to offset potential losses in an existing portfolio.