



FREE GUIDE · INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

The ICT concepts

Structure, liquidity, PD arrays, timing: every notion of the method on one page, each one shown on a real TradingView chart.

32 notions **31** real charts **4** parts

What ICT is

ICT — for Inner Circle Trader — is the method taught by Michael J. Huddleston. It starts from a simple idea: price does not wander at random between hand-drawn lines, it goes looking for liquidity — the orders waiting above highs and below lows — and it comes back to fill the imbalances it leaves behind when it moves too fast.

All of the ICT vocabulary follows from that idea. Market structure says which way price is moving. Liquidity says where it has reasons to go. PD arrays say where it is likely to react on the way. Timing says at what hour those patterns mean something. This guide covers those four families, in that order.

What this guide is not

It is not a system that wins every time, and none of the notions that follow is one. Each is a reading grid: it tells you where to look and what to expect, not what will happen. What decides the result over time is how you manage risk — the subject of the beginner's guide, if that is not settled yet.

Each notion fits on one page and rests on a real TradingView chart, not an idealised sketch. The examples were chosen because they read clearly, not because they won: a zone that holds on a screenshot will not hold every time.

The ICT read on one page

Every notion in this guide serves one sequence. Here it is, in the order you run through it in front of a chart.

1 **The bias** PREPARED BY THE INDICATOR

On a higher timeframe, structure says which way to look: HH/HL, LH/LL, BOS, CHoCH.

2 **The target** PREPARED BY THE INDICATOR

Which liquidity is the market aiming for? Obvious highs and lows, the previous day's high and low, equal highs and equal lows.

3 **The moment**

You do not look all day: sessions, killzones, Silver Bullet.

4 **The trap** PREPARED BY THE INDICATOR

Price first goes for the liquidity on the wrong side: stop hunt, turtle soup, Judas swing.

5 **The confirmation** PREPARED BY THE INDICATOR

A displacement in the right direction, and a structure break on the execution timeframe.

6 **The entry**

In a zone on the right side of equilibrium: FVG, order block, breaker, OTE.

7 **The exit**

The target is the liquidity opposite; the idea is wrong if price goes back beyond the sweep.

The marked steps are the ones FTS Liquidity Sweep Pro prepares on your chart: the bias, the liquidity register, the sweep and the break level. The entry, the stop, the size and the decision to take the trade stay yours.

Four parts, from structure to timing

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Market structure

Before any zone or any hour: which way is the market moving? Six notions to read the sequence of highs and lows, and to recognise the moment it changes.

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Market structure

The sequence of highs and lows that shows whether the market is bullish, bearish or ranging.



Nasdaq 100, 4-hour, 17 April – 14 May 2026. Each low holds above the previous one (HL), each high clears the previous one (HH): as long as the sequence holds, the bias stays bullish.

Market structure is the read of the sequence of highs and lows on a chart. It is the first thing an ICT trader identifies before looking for a trade: it sets the bias (bullish, bearish, or ranging) on the timeframe being worked.

How do you actually spot it? Start by marking the obvious swing highs and swing lows — the ones you can see squinting at the chart, not every micro-oscillation. Connect them in chronological order. If the line steps upward, you are in a bullish structure. If it steps down, bearish. If it zigzags flat, you are ranging, and most directional setups lose their reliability.

How do you trade it? The rule is easy to state and hard to hold to: only take entries in the direction of the structure in place. In a bullish structure, you wait for pullbacks to buy — you do not sell the highs. The trade is built on price returning to a value zone (order block, fair value gap) left behind by the last impulsive move.

On the site: freedomtradingschool.com/en/ict-glossary/market-structure

Swing High / Swing Low

A local high or low surrounded by lower (or higher) candles on both sides.



Nasdaq 100, 15-minute, 20 August 2026. A swing high (SH) is a high flanked by lower highs; a swing low (SL) is the reverse. Only the ones that produced a visible reaction get marked.

A swing high is a candle whose high is higher than the candles immediately before and after it. A swing low is the opposite: a low that sits below its direct neighbours.

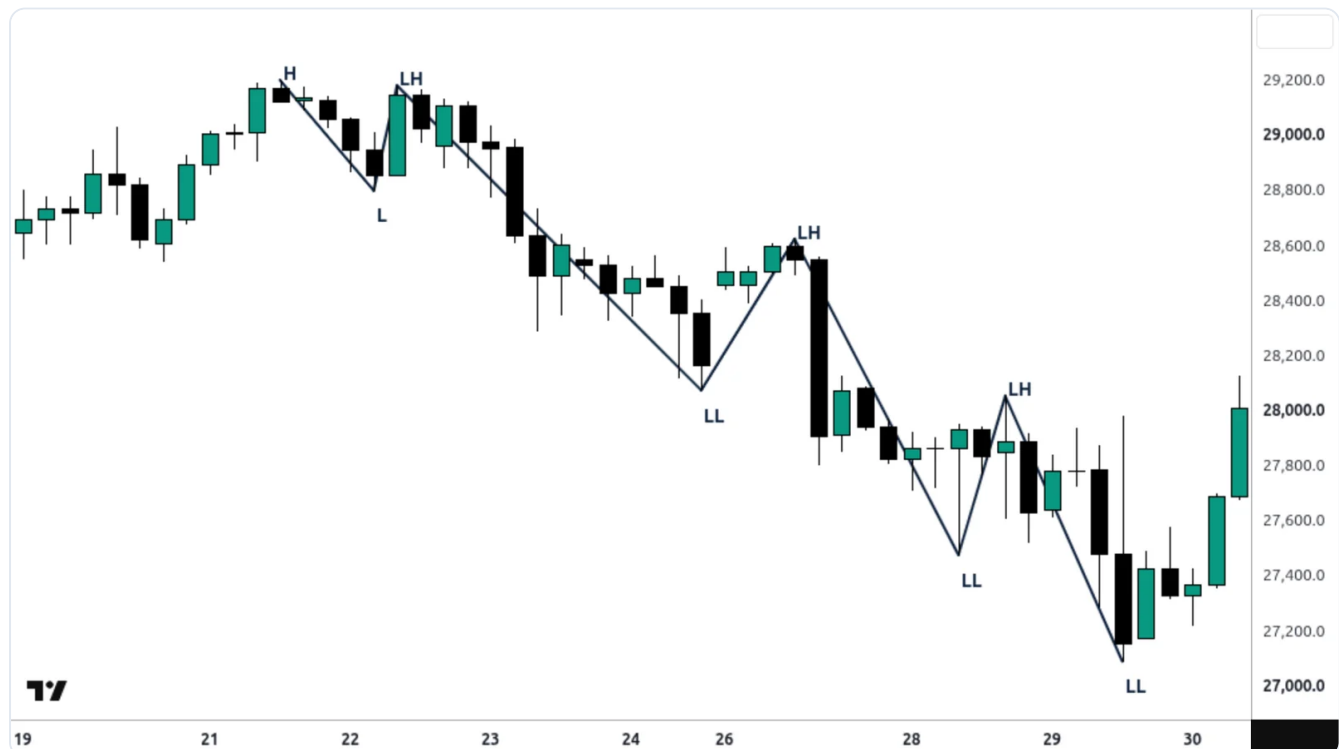
How to spot them without drowning: the question to ask is not "is this candle higher than its neighbours?" but "did price visibly react here?". A useful swing point is one that caused a clean reversal, not a one-candle hesitation. A quick test: zoom out. The swing points still visible when zoomed out are the ones that matter.

How to use them? They do three jobs at once. First, reading structure, by connecting successive pivots. Second, placing stops: a short stop goes above a swing high, never in empty space. Third, locating liquidity — other traders' stop orders pile up just beyond those same pivots, which makes them targets for the market.

On the site: freedomtradingschool.com/en/ict-glossary/swing-high-swing-low

HH/HL vs LL/LH

The vocabulary for describing a bullish (HH/HL) or bearish (LL/LH) trend, point by point.



Nasdaq 100, 4-hour, 21 – 29 July 2026. The same read in reverse: lower highs (LH), lower lows (LL).

HH (Higher High) and HL (Higher Low) describe a bullish structure: each new high exceeds the previous one, and each new low stays above the prior low.

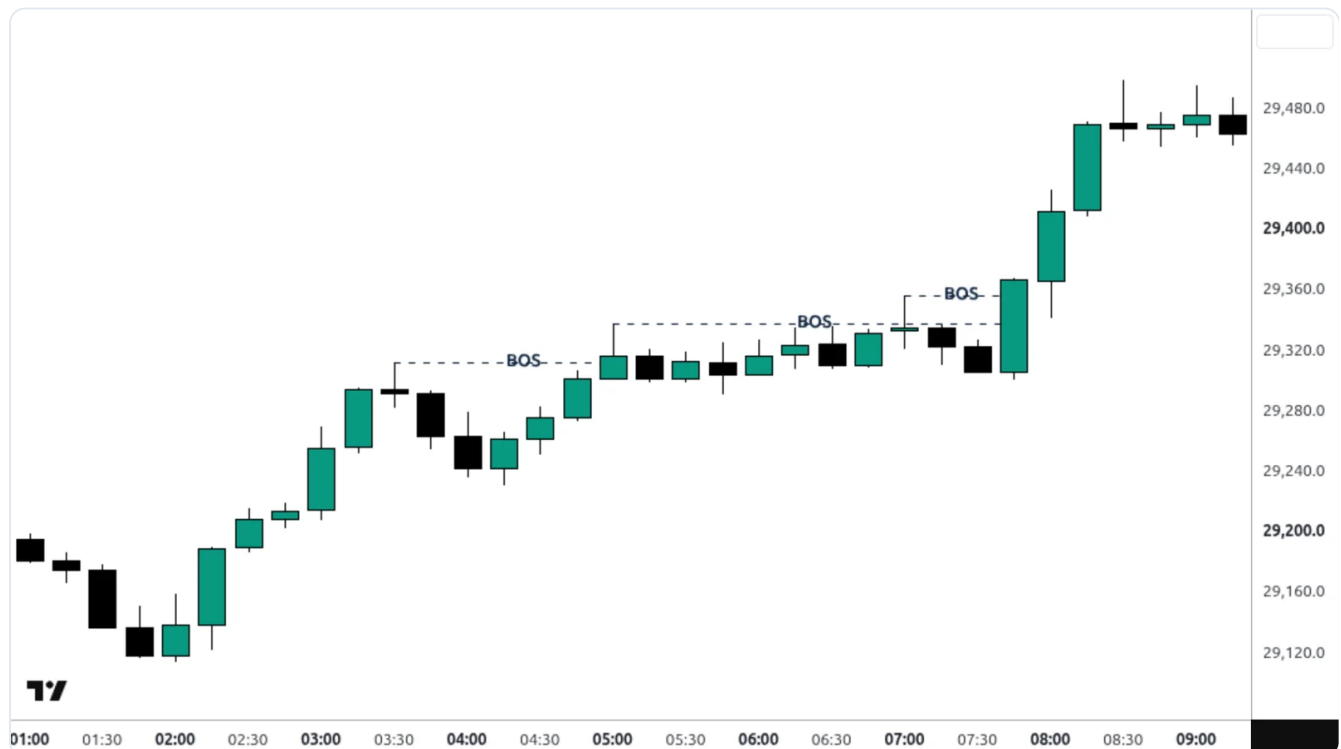
LL (Lower Low) and LH (Lower High) describe the opposite in a bearish structure: each new low sits below the previous one, and each new high stays under the prior high.

How to use it in a trade? These four labels decide which direction is allowed. In HH/HL, you only look for buys on pullbacks. In LL/LH, only sells on rallies. A properly annotated chart makes that decision mechanical and takes intuition out of the equation — which is exactly the point.

On the site: freedomtradingschool.com/en/ict-glossary/higher-high-lower-low

Break of Structure (BOS)

A break of a prior high or low that confirms the continuation of the current trend.



Nasdaq 100, 15-minute, 17 September 2026. Three highs broken one after another, each time by a close above rather than a wick: three BOS in the direction of the trend.

A Break of Structure (BOS) happens when price closes beyond a significant prior high or low, in the direction of the trend already in place. It is a continuation signal, not a reversal.

How to spot it: identify the last significant swing high of the current trend, draw a horizontal line at its peak, and wait. The BOS is valid when a candle actually closes above that line — not when a wick pokes through it. That distinction is not a technicality: a wick that clears the level without closing beyond it is very often a stop hunt, which is the exact opposite of a BOS.

How to trade it? The BOS is not an entry signal in itself: entering on the break means buying the high of the move with a stop far away. The ICT sequence is different. The BOS confirms the bias; you then mark the value zone left behind by the impulsive move that caused the break (the order block or fair value gap just before it); and you wait for price to pull back into that zone to enter, with a stop just beyond.

On the site: freedomtrading-school.com/en/ict-glossary/break-of-structure

Change of Character (CHoCH)

The first sign a trend may be reversing, when price breaks structure in the opposite direction.



Nasdaq 100, 15-minute, 3 August 2026. After a run of LH and LL, price sweeps the lows at 9:30, then closes above the last LH: that is the CHoCH.

A Change of Character (CHoCH) is a structure break that goes against the current trend — unlike a BOS, which confirms the trend. It is the very first clue that a reversal may be forming.

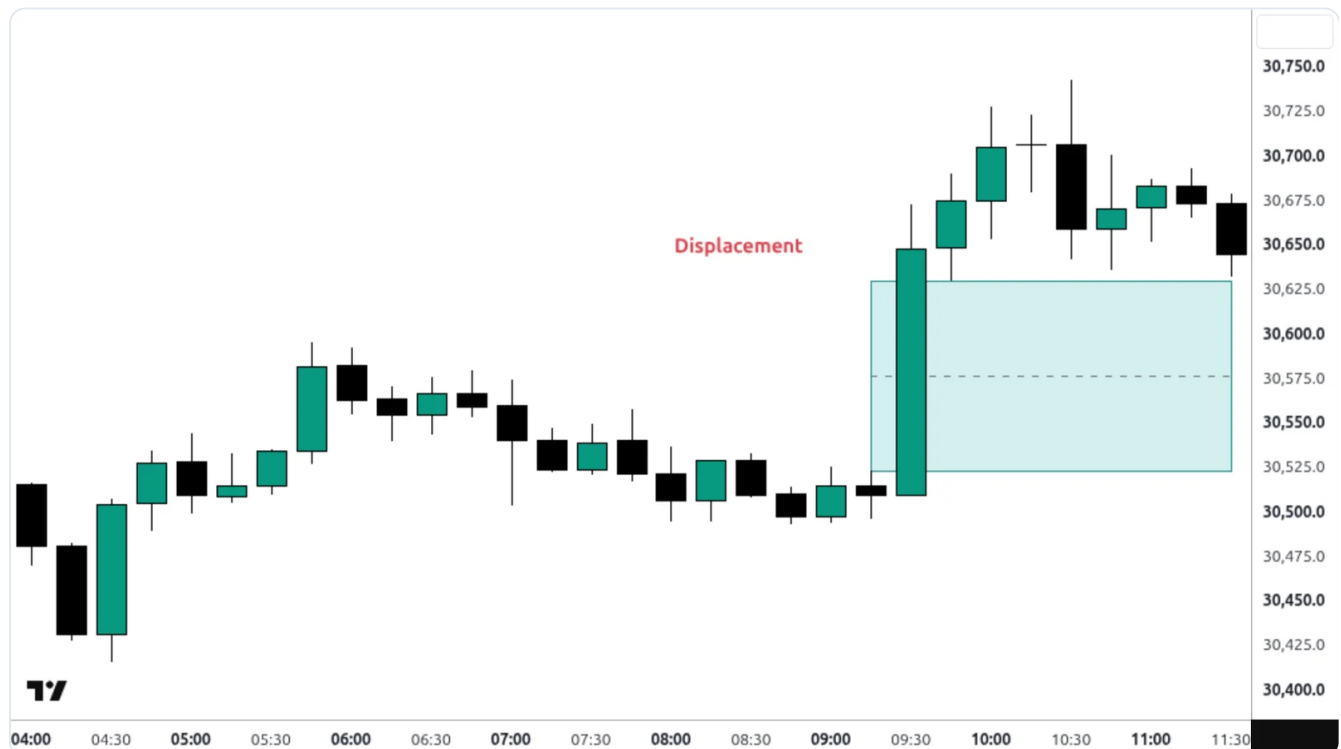
Example: in an uptrend, price breaks a higher low instead of printing a new higher high. That single event is enough to shift the bias from bullish to potentially bearish.

How to spot it: in an uptrend, mark the last higher low — the swing that launched the most recent leg up. As long as that level holds, the bullish structure is intact. The moment a candle closes below it, you have a CHoCH. The mechanism is symmetrical in a downtrend, on the last lower high.

On the site: freedomtrading.school.com/en/ict-glossary/change-of-character

Displacement

A fast, wide directional move that betrays genuine intent and leaves an imbalance behind it.



Nasdaq 100, 15-minute, 22 September 2026. At 9:30, a single candle travels more than 130 points, closes near its high and leaves an FVG behind it.

Displacement refers to a fast, wide, clearly directional price move — one or several large candles in the same direction, with little opposing wick. It is the move that takes price from one level to another with no visible hesitation.

How to spot it: compare the candle or sequence in question to the twenty or thirty candles preceding it, on the same timeframe. Displacement is visible to the naked eye, no indicator required: it is markedly larger than the recent average, its body accounts for most of its range, and it closes near its extreme. If you are hesitating over whether to call it one, it is not one.

How do you trade it? You do not chase displacement — entering mid-move amounts to buying the highest price of the sequence. You use it as an intent signal, then wait for the pullback into the zone it left behind: the FVG at its core, or the order block at its origin. Displacement gives the direction; the zone gives the entry.

On the site: freedomtradingschool.com/en/ict-glossary/displacement

The bias, read for you by the indicator

FTS Liquidity Sweep Pro waits for an ICT market structure shift (MSS) on a reference structure: 4-hour by default, daily if you work more slowly. The panel in the top-right corner shows the daily, 4-hour, 1-hour and 15-minute bias at a glance.

It does not decide for you to follow that bias. It only saves you working it out again on every chart.



NQ, 15-minute, 23 – 24 September 2026, New York time. The panel reflects the moment of capture. Every signal of the period is shown, unfiltered: some held, some did not.

The indicator: freedomtradingschool.com/en/ict-tradingview-indicator

Liquidity

Where the orders sit, and so where price has reasons to go. The part that explains the most "inexplicable" moves, and the one the indicator is built around.

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09 Equal Highs / Equal Lows

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11 Draw on Liquidity (DOL)

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15 SMT Divergence

Liquidity (buy-side / sell-side)

Pools of resting stop orders sitting above highs (buy-side) and below lows (sell-side).



Nasdaq 100, 15-minute, night of 21 – 22 September 2026. Above the overnight high, buy-side liquidity (BSL); below the low, sell-side liquidity (SSL): the two obvious targets of the session.

In ICT, liquidity refers to areas where stop orders accumulate: above recent highs (buy-side liquidity — sellers' stops and breakout traders' buy orders) and below recent lows (sell-side liquidity — buyers' stops).

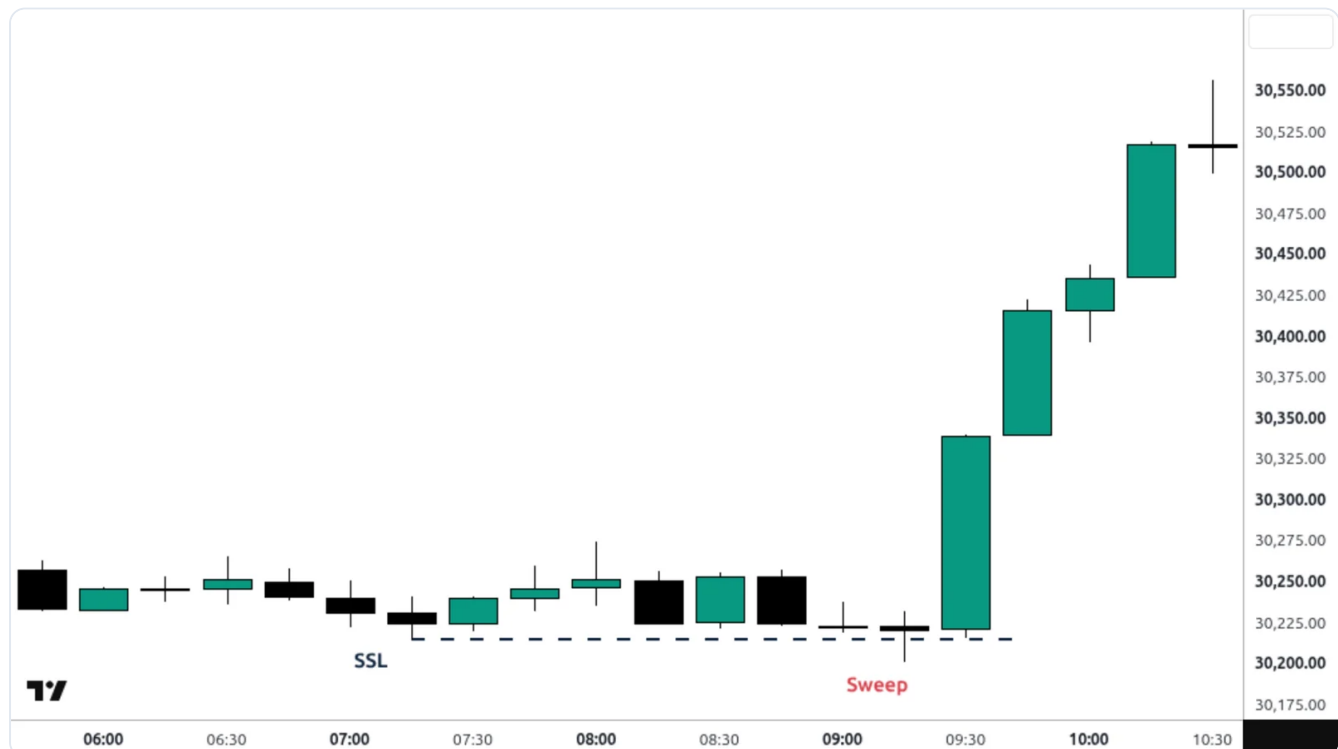
Large market participants need this liquidity to fill their orders without moving price too much. That's why price tends to "hunt" these areas before reversing into the direction it actually intends to go.

How to trade it? Not as an entry signal but as a map of objectives. Before each session the question is: where is the nearest, most obvious liquidity? If price is pinned under a series of level highs, odds are good it reaches for them before doing anything else. You do not trade against that pull: you wait for it to be consumed, then look for your entry on the reversal.

On the site: freedomtrading.school/en/ict-glossary/buy-side-sell-side-liquidity

Stop Hunt / Liquidity Grab

A fast wick beyond a key level that triggers stops before price reverses the other way.



NQ, 15-minute, 21 September 2026. The London lows (SSL) are taken at 9:15, just before the New York open; price comes straight back above, then rallies about 450 points.

A stop hunt (or liquidity grab) is a fast, often sharp price move that slightly clears an obvious high or low, triggering the stops sitting just beyond it, before immediately reversing the other way.

How do you recognise one live rather than in hindsight? Three things must coincide. An obvious level that everyone can see. A fast overshoot, often in one or two candles, with a wick clearly longer than the body. And above all an immediate return back under the level: if price stays beyond it for several candles, that was not a stop hunt but a genuine break.

How to trade it? The stop hunt is not the entry, it is the green light. The typical sequence: price sweeps an obvious low, comes back above it, and you then look for a long entry at the first value zone left behind by that reversal — an order block or fair value gap formed on the way back up. The stop goes under the sweep wick, which often gives very small risk for a wide target.

On the site: freedomtrading.school/en/ict-glossary/stop-hunt-liquidity-grab

Equal Highs / Equal Lows

Multiple highs (or lows) sitting at nearly the same level, marking a strong pool of liquidity.



Nasdaq 100, 15-minute, 8 September 2026. Two lows a few points apart, at 4:00 and 5:00: equal lows, with stops stacked just below.

Equal highs (EQH) are multiple highs forming at roughly the same price level. Equal lows (EQL) are the equivalent on the low side. These levels are visually easy to spot on a chart.

How to spot them: look for two or more highs stopping at the same level within a few points. They do not need to be perfectly identical — the human eye and the algorithms both tolerate a small margin. The signal is stronger when the highs are spread out in time: two highs aligned hours apart concentrate far more orders than two adjacent candles.

How to trade them? Two complementary uses. As a target: if you are already long, equal highs above are a natural take-profit objective — exit before them, not on them. As a trigger: wait for the level to be swept, then for a fast return back under it, and look for your entry at the reversal's value zone.

On the site: freedomtrading.school/en/ict-glossary/equal-highs-equal-lows

Liquidity Pool

An area where a large volume of resting stop orders is concentrated, forming an attractive target for price.



Nasdaq 100, 15-minute, 17 September 2026. The ceiling around 29,490 – 29,500 is tested about ten times during the day; at 15:45 price goes for what has built up there.

A liquidity pool is a price area where a large amount of resting stop orders is concentrated — typically above a prior high, below a prior low, or around equal highs/lows.

Where to find them concretely: below the previous day's low and above its high, around equal highs and equal lows, at the edges of the Asian session range, and beyond round numbers. These areas are not mysterious — everyone can see them, and that is exactly what makes them reservoirs of orders.

How to use them? A pool is a destination, not a signal. Before opening a position, ask which pool price is most likely to reach for, and set your target just before it — not inside it. Conversely, if your setup has you entering while a large pool sits right behind your stop, know that you are betting against the market's natural pull.

On the site: freedomtrading-school.com/en/ict-glossary/liquidity-pool

Draw on Liquidity (DOL)

The pool of liquidity price is being pulled toward — in other words, the probable target of the current move.



Nasdaq 100, 15-minute, 22 – 23 September 2026. Overnight, price clears the previous day's high (PDH) without holding, then heads for the previous day's low (PDL), reached at 10:15.

Draw on Liquidity, often shortened to DOL, refers to the pool of liquidity price is currently being pulled toward. It answers a question too many traders never ask before entering: where is this move supposed to go?

How to determine it: list the liquidity available on both sides of current price — unswept highs and lows, previous-day extremes, equal highs and equal lows. Then let structure decide: in a bullish structure the likelier DOL is the liquidity above; in a bearish structure, the liquidity below. When both sides are equally stocked, the higher timeframe breaks the tie.

How do you use it? The DOL sets the trade's objective and, by extension, its validity. If your target sits 40 points away and your stop 30, the trade makes no sense: the setup is not bad, there simply is not enough road left. A DOL already taken invalidates the idea as surely as a stop being hit.

On the site: freedomtradingschool.com/en/ict-glossary/draw-on-liquidity

Turtle Soup

A reversal model that trades the failure of a breakout: price clears an extreme, fails to hold, and turns back the other way.



Nasdaq 100, 15-minute, 8 September 2026. The overnight equal lows are pushed through at the New York open; no close holds below, and price climbs back more than 200 points.

Turtle Soup is a reversal model that takes a position against a breakout which has just failed. Price clears an obvious high or low, cannot hold there, and comes back decisively to the side it came from.

How to spot it: you first need an obvious extreme — a high or low anyone would draw, ideally a run of equal highs or equal lows. Then a brief overshoot, often just a wick, with no convincing close beyond. Finally a fast return back under the level: it is the speed of the return that signs the model, not the overshoot itself.

How do you trade it? You wait for price to trade back under the swept level, then look for confirmation on a lower timeframe — typically a CHoCH, or an FVG left by the return move. Entry goes at that zone, the stop just beyond the sweep wick, which is the cleanest invalidation point the model offers.

On the site: freedomtrading.school/en/ict-glossary/turtle-soup

Inducement

A small "trap" liquidity zone, created to lure traders in before the real move happens.



Nasdaq 100, 5-minute, 4 September 2026. Before reaching the order block left by the 8:30 drop, price sweeps a small intermediate high (IDM): the liquidity that traps early entries.

An inducement is a small swing or intermediate liquidity zone, created between current price and a more significant value zone (order block, FVG), whose effect is to lure premature entries.

How to spot it: first identify your main value zone — the order block or FVG you intend to enter on. Then look at what sits between current price and that zone. If there is a small intermediate swing, a minor but visible low, that is your inducement. It is almost always there: a value zone reached with no intermediate liquidity to consume is the exception, not the rule.

How to trade it? You do not trade the inducement, you wait for it. The sequence: mark the value zone, identify the inducement ahead of it, wait for price to sweep it, and only then look for the entry at the zone. That patience turns a wide stop into a tight one, because the sweep has purged the liquidity that was threatening your position.

On the site: freedomtrading.school/en/ict-glossary/inducement

STH / ITH / LTH

A hierarchy of highs – short, intermediate and long term – that ranks liquidity by significance rather than by age.

■ Bullish candle ■ Bearish candle



STH (Short-Term High), ITH (Intermediate-Term High) and LTH (Long-Term High) describe three tiers of highs, ranked not by how long ago they formed but by how many times price has already come back to them without breaking them. The same vocabulary exists on the low side: STL, ITL, LTL.

How to spot them: start from the most recent high and work backward. As long as a high has not been retested, it stays an STH. The moment price returns to touch it without breaking it, it gets promoted to ITH. If it withstands several successive returns and frames the chart over a much wider window, it becomes an LTH. Promotion happens through the test of retests, not by decree.

How do you use this in a trade? The hierarchy works as a priority map for the draw on liquidity: with a bullish bias, the market generally consumes STHs before going after ITHs, and ITHs before LTHs. Targeting an LTH while several STHs sit between price and that target risks getting stopped out well before, on one of those intermediate highs.

On the site: freedomtradingschool.com/en/ict-glossary/sth-ith-lth

SMT Divergence

Two normally correlated instruments stop moving together: one makes a new extreme, the other does not.

Nasdaq 100



S&P 500



15-minute, 29 July 2026. At 9:30 the Nasdaq clears its 8:45 high (HH); the S&P 500 stays below its own (LH). Both indices then drop.

SMT divergence (Smart Money Technique) compares two normally correlated instruments and flags the moment they stop moving together: one prints a new low, the other stalls above its previous one. That desynchronisation is read as a sign of an imminent reversal.

The classic pairings are those whose correlation is structural rather than incidental: EUR/USD and GBP/USD, the US indices against each other (Nasdaq, S&P 500, Dow Jones), or gold and silver. The logic only holds if both instruments genuinely share a common driver.

How do you use it? SMT is a confirmation tool, never a standalone trigger. The sequence that works: price sweeps a liquidity level, SMT confirms the sweep is not shared, then you wait for a CHoCH on the execution timeframe to enter. Without that third step you have an observation, nothing more.

On the site: freedomtradingschool.com/en/ict-glossary/smt-divergence

The register and the sweep: the core of the indicator

FTS Liquidity Sweep Pro records every level likely to hold stops — local and 15-minute pivots, 15-minute and 1-hour FVGs, the previous day's high and low, NDOG, weekly levels — and gives each a weight. When a level is swept then rejected, it says so: BUY or SELL, and "CT" when the signal runs against the reference bias, which it keeps for major liquidity.

The dotted line under a signal marks the level that would invalidate it. It is not a suggested stop: where you put yours stays your decision.



NQ, 15-minute, 23 September 2026. The 9:30 SELL CT: the morning high is swept against the 4-hour bias, on the same move as the FVG fiche.

The indicator: freedomtradingschool.com/en/ict-tradingview-indicator

Premium, discount and PD arrays

Where to enter, once direction and target are known. First the frame — the range, its equilibrium, the OTE zone —, then the PD array matrix, then each zone in turn.

16 Premium / Discount

17 Equilibrium and dealing range

18 Optimal Trade Entry (OTE)

— The PD array matrix

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23 Mitigation Block

24 Rejection block

25 Inversion Fair Value Gap (IFVG)

26 Breakaway Gap

27 Suspension Block

Premium / Discount

The upper half of a range is expensive (premium), the lower half cheap (discount) — you buy low and sell high.



Nasdaq 100, 15-minute, 8 July 2026. The leg from 5:15 to 9:45 sets the range; its upper half is premium, its lower half discount. The 11:00 pullback dips into discount before the move resumes.

Premium and discount name the two halves of a price range, separated by its midpoint. Above that middle, price is at a premium: it is expensive relative to the range. Below it, price is at a discount: it is cheap. The notion is purely relative and gets recalculated for each range under consideration.

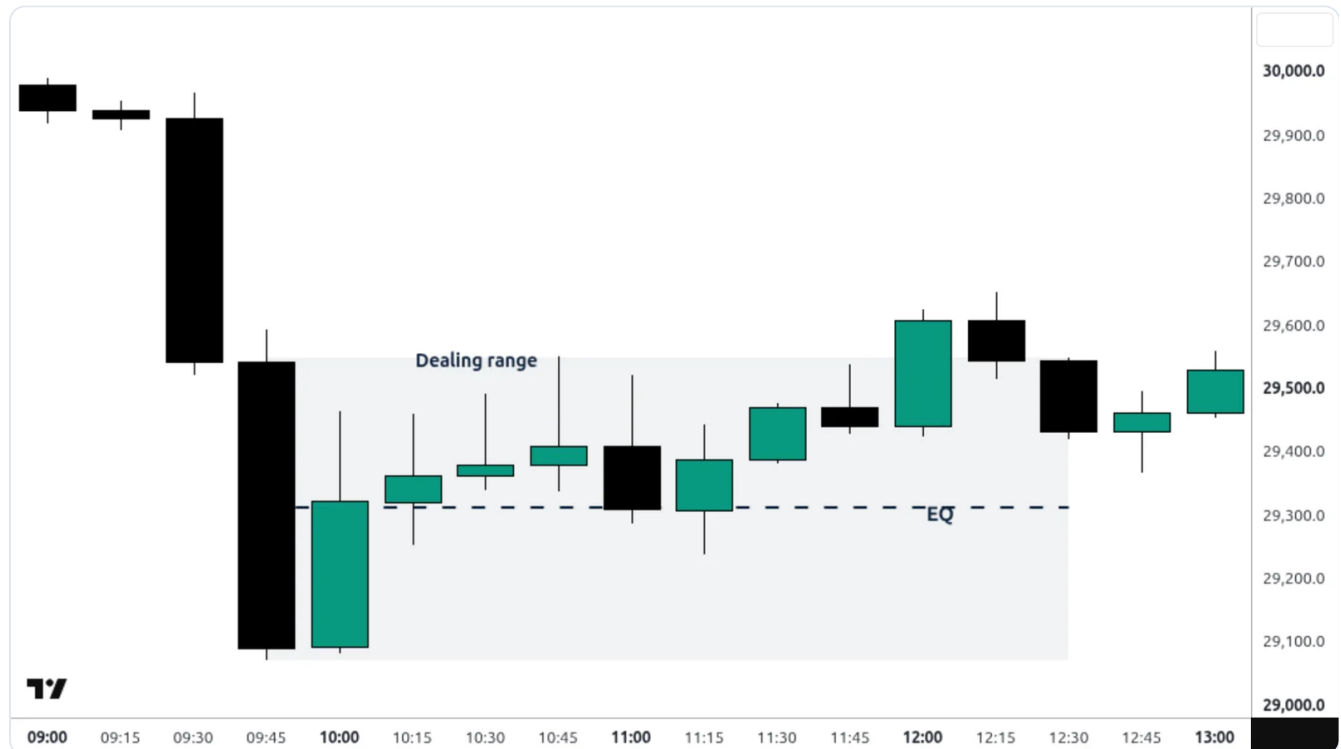
How to determine it: identify the reference range — the low and high of a significant leg, or of a session. Draw its midpoint. Everything above is premium, everything below is discount. Most platforms give it to you in one gesture with the Fibonacci retracement tool, the 50% level marking the divide.

How do you use it? As a filter, at the last stage of selection. Structure gives the bias, the Draw on Liquidity gives the target, the zone gives the entry — and premium/discount decides whether that entry is worth taking. A bullish setup whose entry zone sits at a premium gets passed on, however tempting it looks.

On the site: freedomtradingschool.com/en/ict-glossary/premium-discount

Equilibrium and dealing range

The dealing range is the working interval between two extremes; its midpoint, equilibrium, separates premium from discount.



Nasdaq 100, 15-minute, 25 June 2026. The dealing range runs from the 9:45 low to the 10:45 high; price comes back to equilibrium (EQ) twice before moving on.

The dealing range is the price interval you reason inside, bounded by a significant low and a significant high. Equilibrium is its midpoint, exactly 50% of its height. The two notions travel together: with no defined range, equilibrium has no location, and premium and discount stop meaning anything.

How to draw it: place the Fibonacci retracement tool from the low to the high of the chosen leg. The 50% level is your equilibrium, 0% and 100% your bounds. In a bullish structure you draw bottom to top, in a bearish one top to bottom — the direction determines which half is the discount.

How do you use it? The range sets the stage for the session: you know where the bounds are, therefore where liquidity sits on both sides, and where the line runs between expensive and cheap entries. It is the first thing to draw on a chart, before even looking for an order block.

On the site: freedomtrading.school/en/ict-glossary/equilibrium-dealing-range

Optimal Trade Entry (OTE)

The pullback zone between 62% and 79% of a leg, where you look to enter in the direction of the trend.



Nasdaq 100, 15-minute, 8 July 2026. The same leg: the 11:15 pullback stops inside the OTE band, between 62 and 79% of the move, then price clears the high.

The Optimal Trade Entry, or OTE, names a precise pullback zone on a leg of a move: the interval between 62% and 79% of the retracement, with the 70.5% level as its core. You look there for an entry in the direction of the original move.

How to draw it: place the Fibonacci tool on the impulsive leg, from the start to the end of the move. Add the 0.62, 0.705 and 0.79 levels if they are not configured by default. The band you get is your entry zone for the pullback underway.

How do you trade it? You wait for price to enter the band, then look for confirmation on a lower timeframe — a CHoCH, or a sweep of a small low followed by a reversal. The stop goes beyond the leg's origin: if price returns there, the pullback was not one and structure has changed.

On the site: freedomtrading.school/en/ict-glossary/optimal-trade-entry

The PD array matrix

A PD array — for premium / discount array — is a price zone where a reaction is expected: an old high, an order block, an FVG, a breaker... ICT arranges them in a matrix. The dealing range is cut in two at equilibrium: above, the zones where you look for sells; below, the ones where you look for buys. On each side, zones are listed from the range extreme back toward equilibrium.

How to use it: draw the dealing range and its equilibrium; with a bullish bias, look only at the discount half and take the first zone that presents itself there; with a bearish bias, the premium half. The target sits opposite: the liquidity at the other extreme of the range.

PREMIUM — WHERE SELLS ARE SOUGHT		
1	Old high	Notion 09
2	Rejection block	Notion 24
3	Bearish order block	Notion 21
4	Bearish fair value gap	Notion 20
5	Bearish breaker	Notion 22
6	Bearish mitigation block	Notion 23

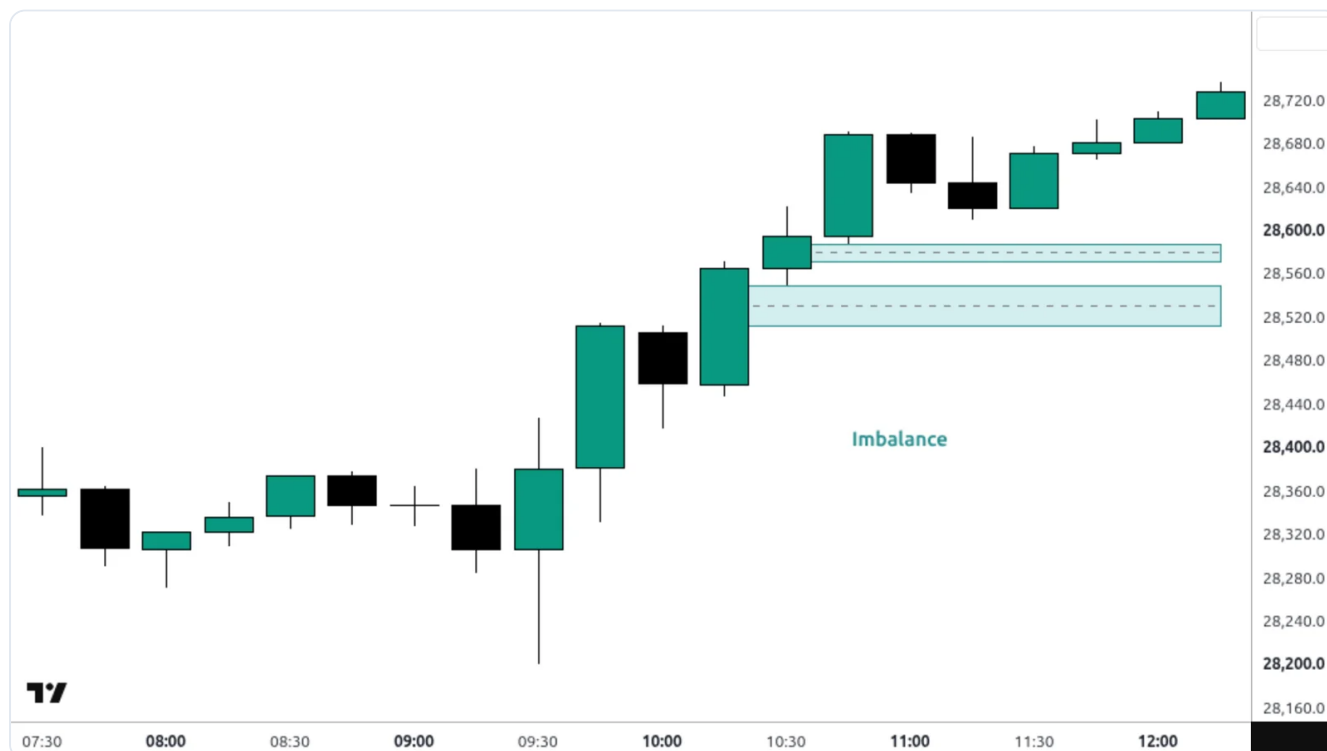
EQUILIBRIUM — 50% OF THE RANGE		

6	Bullish mitigation block	Notion 23
5	Bullish breaker	Notion 22
4	Bullish fair value gap	Notion 20
3	Bullish order block	Notion 21
2	Rejection block	Notion 24
1	Old low	Notion 09
DISCOUNT — WHERE BUYS ARE SOUGHT		

This is the classic version, as ICT taught it in 2016. More recent variants exist, adding other zones or ordering them differently. The order says where to look first; it does not say one zone works more often than another, and none of them works every time.

Imbalance

A broad imbalance between buyers and sellers that pushes price to move fast in one direction.



Nasdaq 100, 15-minute, 3 August 2026. The opening rally leaves successive gaps behind it: so many unfilled imbalances.

Imbalance describes, more broadly than a simple FVG, any move where supply and demand aren't balanced — showing up as wide candles and a fast price move over a short time.

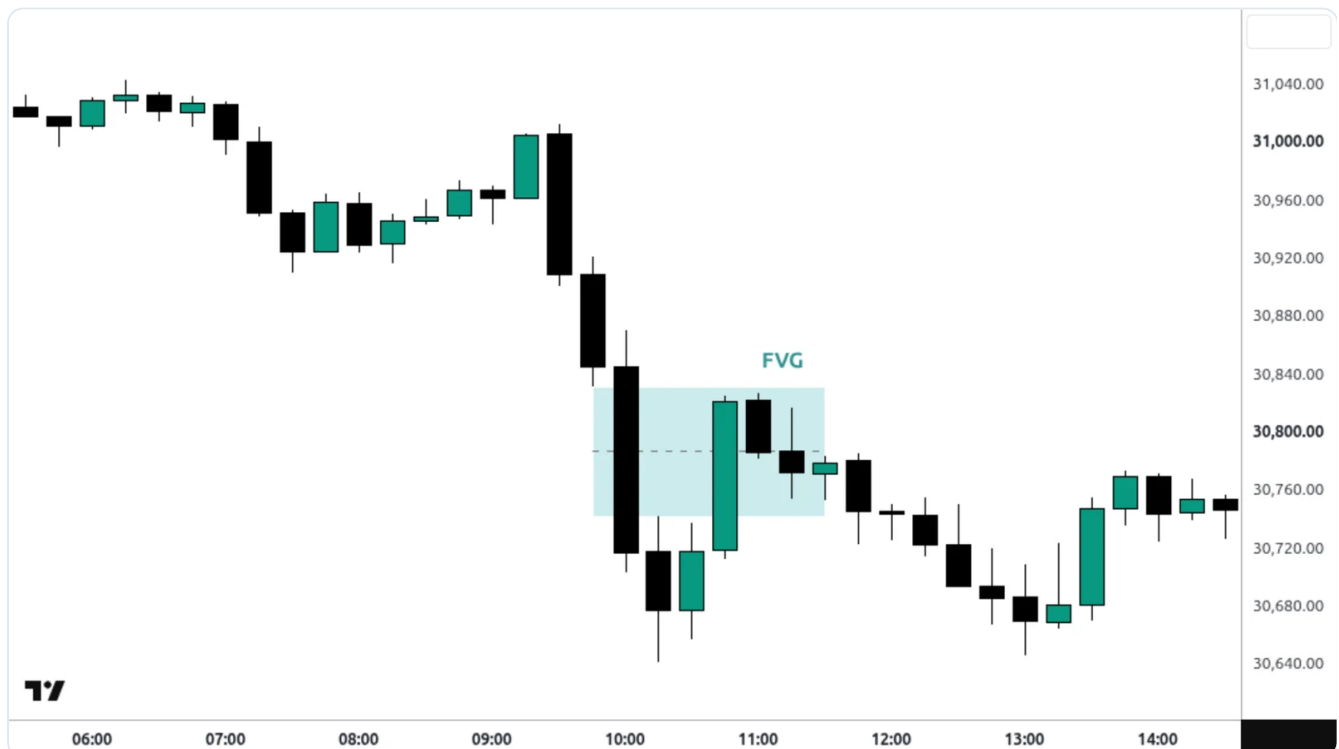
How to spot one: visually, an imbalance shows up as one or more large candles in the same direction, with no overlap between the wicks of neighbouring candles. If you can draw a horizontal line through the interval without touching the adjacent candles, there is an imbalance. The fair value gap is its most codified form, measurable across three candles.

How to use it? Two ways. As a return zone: price tends to come back and fill imbalances before continuing, which makes them pullback entry targets. As a strength read: a move leaving several successive imbalances behind it is a sustained move, not noise — it signals directional conviction.

On the site: freedomtradingschool.com/en/ict-glossary/imbalance

Fair Value Gap (FVG)

An imbalance across three candles, leaving a price gap the market tends to come back and fill.



NQ, 15-minute, 23 September 2026. The drop from 9:30 to 10:15 leaves a bearish FVG; price returns into it at 10:45 without clearing its top, then the decline resumes.

A Fair Value Gap (FVG) appears across a three-candle pattern, when the wick of the first candle and the wick of the third don't overlap — leaving an untraded price "gap" between them, caused by the middle candle moving too fast.

How to spot one: take three consecutive candles. If the low of the third stays above the high of the first, the space between them is a bullish fair value gap. Mirrored, if the high of the third stays below the low of the first, it is a bearish FVG. There is nothing to interpret: it is a geometric measurement, which makes it one of the few perfectly objective ICT concepts.

How to trade it? An FVG is used as a pullback entry zone, in the direction of the move that created it. Many traders target the middle of the gap rather than its far edge: a reasonable compromise between being filled too early and never being filled at all. The stop goes beyond the gap, never inside it.

On the site: freedomtradingschool.com/en/ict-glossary/fair-value-gap

Order Block

The last opposite candle before a strong impulsive move, thought to mark a zone of institutional orders.



Nasdaq 100, 5-minute, 4 September 2026, NFP day. The last bullish candle before the 8:30 drop; price returns into it at 10:00, then falls again.

An order block is the last candle (or small cluster of candles) in one direction, right before a strong impulsive move in the opposite direction. There's a bullish order block (last down candle before a strong rally) and a bearish order block (last up candle before a strong drop).

The ICT idea behind this concept: this zone marks where large institutional participants placed a meaningful part of their orders before moving the market. When price returns there later, the assumption is those remaining orders can move price again.

How to spot one, step by step. First look for a genuinely impulsive move — a run of wide candles in the same direction, with no hesitation. Then walk back to the last opposite-coloured candle before that move. That is your order block. Its zone generally runs from that candle's open to its close, sometimes including the wick depending on the school.

On the site: freedomtradingschool.com/en/ict-glossary/order-block

Breaker Block

An order block that failed and had its polarity flipped after a structure break.



Nasdaq 100, 15-minute, 27 July 2026. The 3:45 bearish candle is the base of the overnight rally; at 7:15 price closes below the low (CHoCH), comes back to test the zone around 9:00, then drops at the open.

A breaker block is an order block that failed to hold: price traded through it and broke structure the other way (BOS or CHoCH). Once broken, that former order block "switches sides" and becomes a zone of interest in the opposite direction.

Example: a bullish order block that fails and gets traded through to the downside becomes a bearish breaker block — a zone where you'd now look for sells on a pullback, instead of buys.

How to spot one: look for an order block that failed. Concretely, in an uptrend, a last higher low forms, price breaks it to the downside (CHoCH), then rallies back. The bullish order block that did not hold becomes, once price returns to it from below, a bearish breaker. The zone that was meant to support now acts as resistance.

On the site: freedomtrading.school/en/ict-glossary/breaker-block

Mitigation Block

The last zone price departed from before a break, where losing orders wait to be "mitigated".



Nasdaq 100, 15-minute, 22 July 2026. The last bearish candle before the 9:00 rally leaves a zone; price returns into it in the evening without breaking it, and moves off in the original direction.

A mitigation block is close to the order block concept, but more precisely refers to the last zone price departed from before breaking a structural level, without necessarily as clean or impulsive a move as a classic order block.

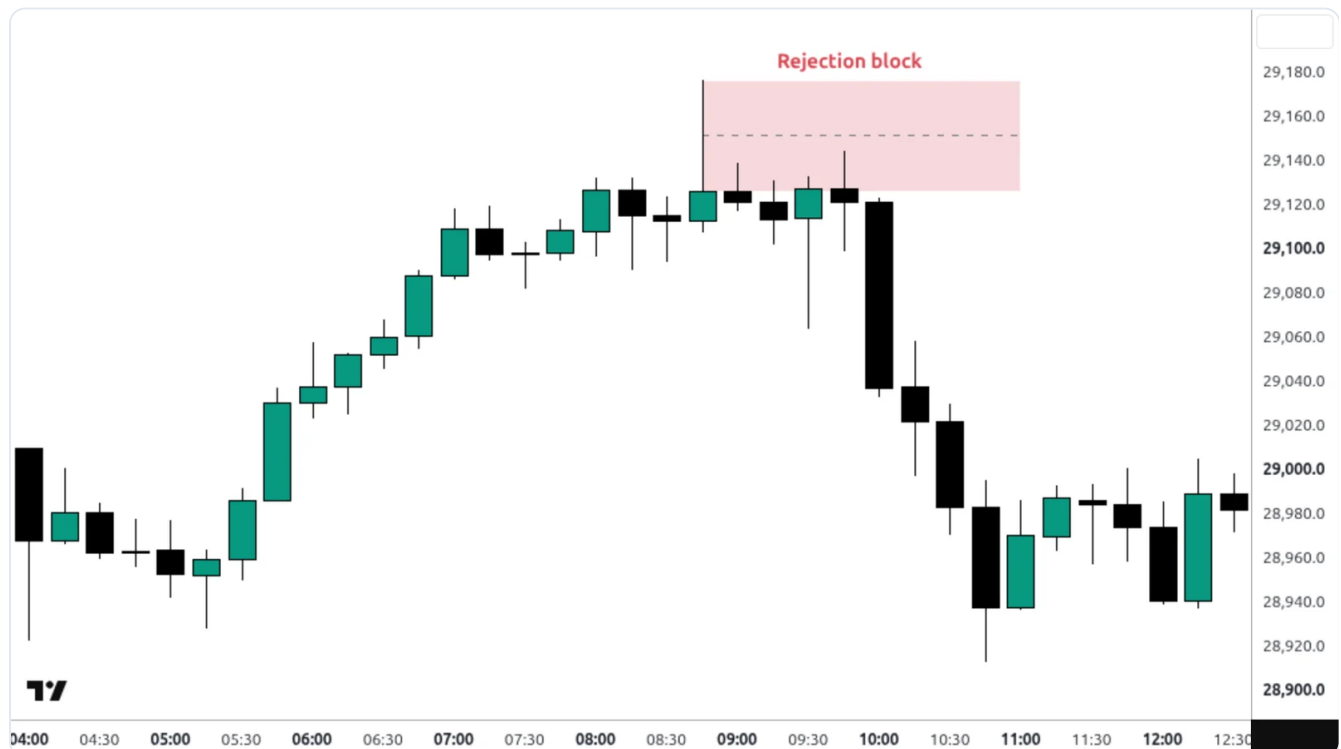
How to spot one: identify a zone an impulsive move started from, then watch price return towards it. If price comes back and touches it without having decisively broken it beforehand, and leaves in the direction of the original move, you have a mitigation block. The nuance against a breaker is right there: here the zone never switched sides.

How to trade it? Like a classic order block, but with one extra requirement: you want to see a reaction before entering, not merely a touch. A rejection candle, an imbalance left on a lower timeframe, a small CHoCH in your favour. The stop goes beyond the zone.

On the site: freedomtrading-school.com/en/ict-glossary/mitigation-block

Rejection block

The wick of a candle at a high or a low, used as an order block.



Nasdaq 100, 15-minute, 15 September 2026. The long upper wick of the 8:45 candle becomes the zone; price returns into it at 9:45, is rejected, then drops at 10:00.

A rejection block is a wick that acts as an order block. Where the classic order block takes the body of the last opposite candle before a move, the rejection block takes the wick: the part of the candle where price went, was not accepted, and was pushed back before the close.

How to spot it: look for a high or a low formed by a long-wicked candle — the wick clearly longer than the body. The zone runs from the body (the open or the close, whichever is nearer the wick) to the tip of the wick. The cleaner the rejection, the more readable the zone.

How to trade it? Like an order block: wait for price to return into the wick, look for a reaction in the direction of the original rejection, and the idea is invalidated if price closes beyond the tip of the wick. The classic mistake is taking any wick at all: only the one that forms a high or a low the structure respected counts.

Inversion Fair Value Gap (IFVG)

A Fair Value Gap price has traded through, flipping polarity: the old support becomes resistance, and vice versa.



Nasdaq 100, 15-minute, 11 August 2026. The 6:15 bullish FVG gives way at 9:30; price retests it from below between 10:00 and 10:45, with no close above, then falls.

An Inversion Fair Value Gap, or IFVG, is a Fair Value Gap price has traded through instead of respecting. The gap fails in its original role and the zone flips polarity: a bullish FVG that gives way becomes resistance, a bearish FVG traded through becomes support.

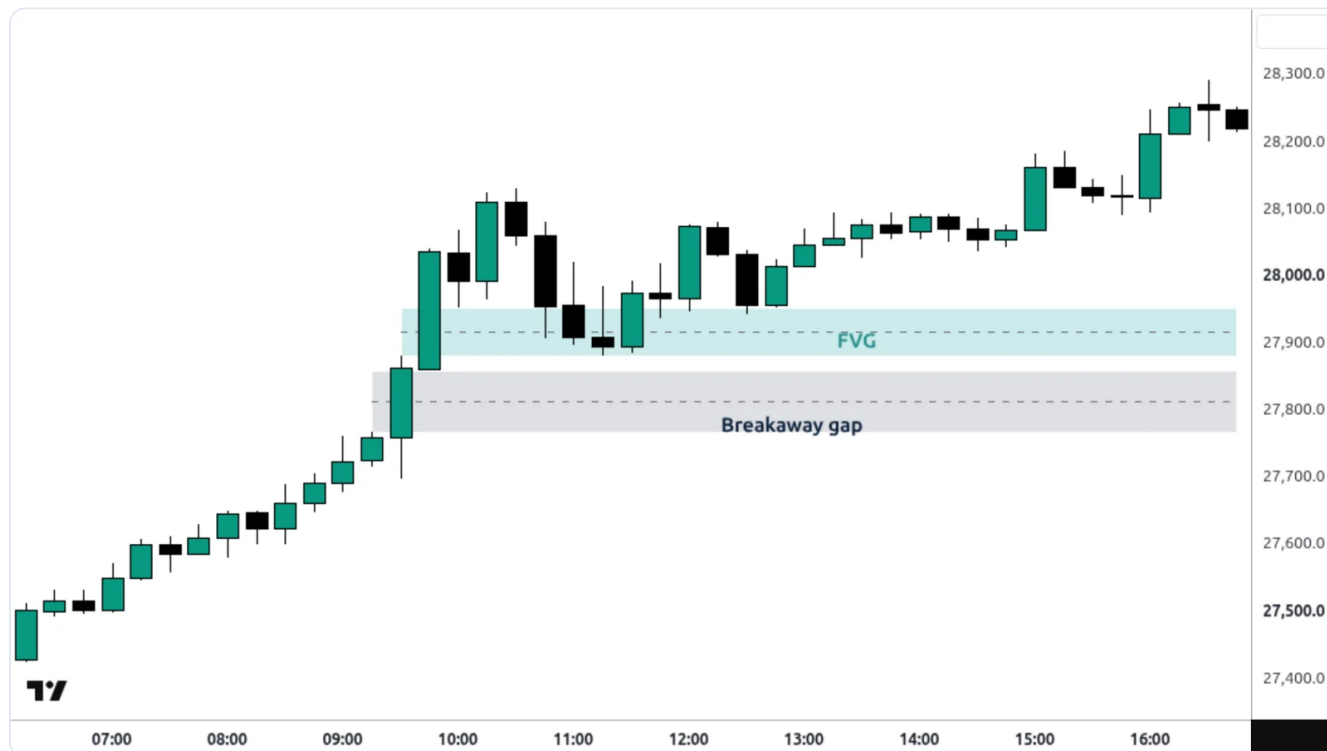
How to spot it: first identify an FVG by the usual three-candle pattern. Then watch whether price crosses it entirely, with a clean close on the other side — a wick through the gap does not count. Once that crossing is confirmed, the zone stays on the chart, but its role is inverted.

How do you trade it? You wait for price to return into the old gap's zone from the opposite side, and enter in the direction of the new polarity. The stop goes on the far side of the zone, which gives a clean invalidation point: if price trades back through, the inversion did not hold and the idea is dead.

On the site: freedomtrading-school.com/en/ict-glossary/inversion-fair-value-gap

Breakaway Gap

The first of two Fair Value Gaps formed back to back in the same move — the one price never comes back to fill.



Nasdaq 100, 15-minute, 30 July 2026. Two FVGs back to back at the New York open. The pullback fills the second and stops at its edge; the first is never revisited.

A breakaway gap almost never shows up alone: the general case is two Fair Value Gaps forming one right after the other, in the continuation of the same impulsive move. The second FVG — the one closer to price at the moment you're looking at the chart — can very well get retested and filled normally, like any other FVG. The first one never will: it, and only it, is what gets called the breakaway gap.

How to spot one: look for an impulsive move long enough to leave two distinct voids instead of one — typically a run of large candles in the same direction, with a pause or an intermediate acceleration that visually separates the two zones. The older gap, the one furthest from current price in the direction of the move, is the breakaway gap candidate.

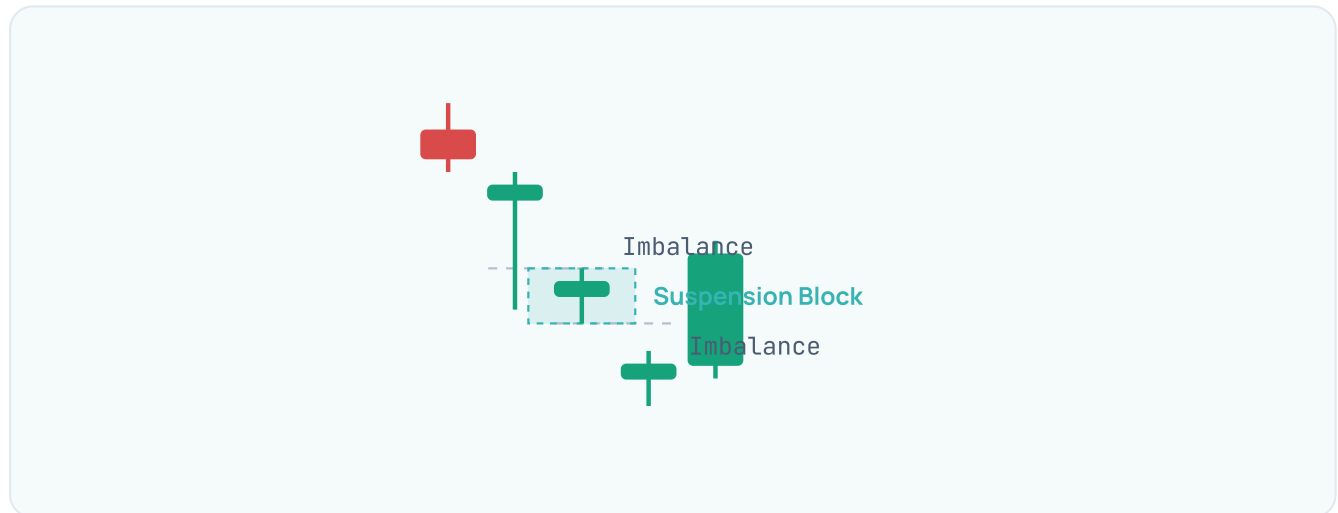
How do you trade it? Not at the breakaway gap itself. You use the retracement into the second FVG — the one that fills normally — as an entry zone in the direction of the original move, with the breakaway gap further back serving as confirmation the structure is holding, not as a target.

On the site: freedomtradingschool.com/en/ict-glossary/breakaway-gap

Suspension Block

A single candle suspended between two volume imbalances, without being a Fair Value Gap itself.

■ Bullish candle ■ Bearish candle ■ Key zone



A suspension block is a single candle that acts as a support or resistance zone, on the same principle as a Fair Value Gap — without being one. It is a recent addition to the ICT body of concepts, introduced by Michael J. Huddleston in September 2025.

How to spot one, three conditions to meet: a bullish or bearish candle; its body fully clear of the neighbouring candles' bodies, above and below; and, on at least one side, the neighbouring candle's wick overlapping its body — confirming that side is a volume imbalance rather than an FVG.

How do you trade it? Like other ICT zones: you wait for a Market Structure Shift confirming the direction you want, then a return of price to the suspension block — ideally within the premium or discount half of the current range depending on the trade direction — before looking for an entry.

On the site: freedomtradingschool.com/en/ict-glossary/suspension-block

Zones in the register, and the moment of the break

The 15-minute, 1-hour and weekly FVGs are part of the indicator's register: a sweep that comes off one of those zones weighs more than a plain pivot. And a sweep is only a hypothesis, so the indicator also keeps the level whose close beyond it would confirm the reversal, and can draw it.

That gives you two distinct moments: when the setup appears, and when the market agrees with it. Alerts follow the same logic — on the signal, on the break, both, or neither. The zone you enter from stays yours: OTE, FVG, order block — that is this chapter.

The indicator: freedomtradingschool.com/en/ict-tradingview-indicator

Timing

The same pattern does not mean the same thing at 3 a.m. and at the New York open. Sessions, killzones and how a typical day unfolds.

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Sessions (Asia / London / New York)

The three major global trading time blocks, each with its own market behaviour.



Nasdaq 100, 15-minute, 9 – 10 September 2026. Asia builds a tight range, London starts the decline, New York extends it to the 9:00 low and then turns it.

The global market runs 24 hours a day on weekdays, but splits into three major sessions based on which financial hubs are open: the Asia session, the London session, and the New York session.

The Asia session usually behaves more quietly and rangier: it often serves as a reference (the night's high/low) for the day's moves. London brings the first real directional move, often by reaching for the liquidity built during the Asian range.

How to use it? Each session has its role. The Asian session is endured rather than traded: you watch it to build the range. London offers the first real setups, often on a sweep of the Asian edge. New York gives the widest moves, but also the most violent false starts in its first half hour.

On the site: freedomtradingschool.com/en/ict-glossary/sessions

Killzone

A precise time window when volatility and volume are historically at their highest.



Nasdaq 100, 15-minute, 17 September 2026. The London killzone (3:00 – 5:00) carries the morning rally; the New York killzone (8:30 – 11:00), the high and the pullback at the open.

A killzone is a specific time window during the day when volume and volatility are historically highest, because it lines up with the open or overlap of major market sessions (London, New York).

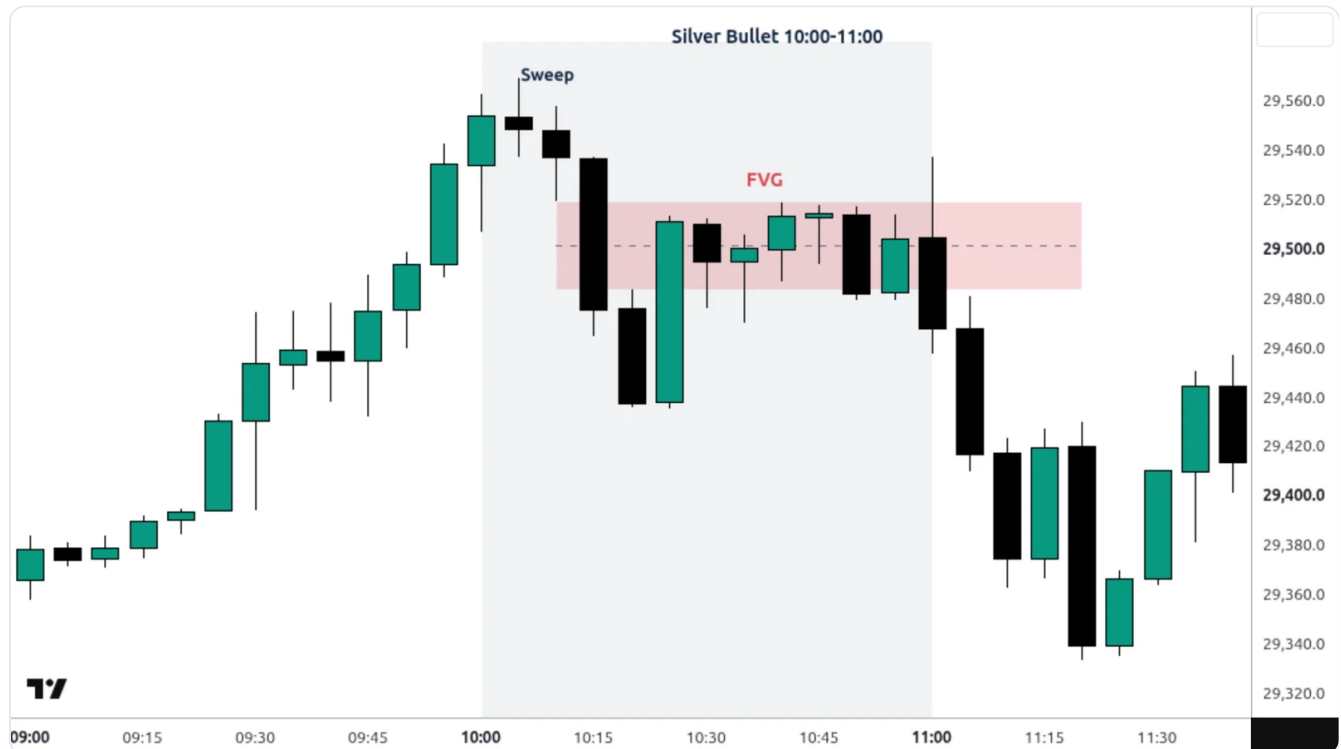
Trading only during killzones lets you focus on the windows where the market "actually moves", instead of hunting for setups during quiet periods where market noise is more misleading.

How to use them: a killzone is not a signal, it is a filter. It does not tell you what to trade, it tells you when your setups have the best odds. A perfectly drawn order block touched at 4am in the middle of the Asian session is worth considerably less than the same order block touched at the New York open.

On the site: freedomtrading.school.com/en/ict-glossary/killzone

Silver Bullet

A one-hour window – 10–11 a.m. and 2–3 p.m. New York time – in which you look for one pattern only: a sweep, an imbalance, an entry.



Nasdaq 100, 5-minute, 9 September 2026. Inside the 10:00 window, the morning high is taken at 10:05; the drop leaves an FVG, retested between 10:25 and 10:40, then price falls until 11:20.

Like any timing-based strategy, the Silver Bullet guarantees nothing on its own: it remains a framework for filtering when to look for a trade, not an entry signal by itself.

How to apply it: in Paris, the most-followed window falls between 4 and 5pm. Inside it you look for one precise pattern and nothing else: a liquidity sweep, then an imbalance created by the reversal, then an entry on that imbalance.

How to prepare: before the window opens, mark the nearby liquidity on both sides of price and settle your bias on a higher timeframe. When the hour starts, all you have to do is watch whether the pattern forms. If nothing shows up within the hour, the day is over.

On the site: freedomtrading.school/en/ict-glossary/silver-bullet

Power of Three (AMD)

The three-phase pattern – accumulation, manipulation, distribution – that structures a trading session.



Nasdaq 100, 15-minute, 21 – 22 September 2026. Accumulation during Asia, manipulation in London (the 4:30 low), distribution at the New York open.

The Power of Three (AMD) describes a recurring three-phase pattern over a session (or a day): Accumulation (price ranges and builds liquidity on both sides), Manipulation (a liquidity sweep, often a fake move opposite to the day's real direction), then Distribution (the real directional move, in the expected direction).

How to spot it across a day: accumulation typically corresponds to the Asian session and the very start of London. Manipulation is the sharp sweep that follows the open — the one that makes you believe direction is settled. Distribution is the real move, often launched at the New York open.

How to trade it? The operational rule fits in one sentence: do not trade the manipulation phase, wait for it. Concretely, identify the accumulation range, mark both edges, and wait for one of them to be swept. The trade is taken opposite the sweep, once lower-timeframe structure has turned.

On the site: freedomtradingschool.com/en/ict-glossary/power-of-three

Judas Swing

A fake move early in the session, opposite to the day's real direction, designed to trap traders.



Nasdaq 100, 15-minute, 6 August 2026. Price dives below the 7:00 low (SSL) in the opening candle, then the day rallies more than 400 points.

The Judas Swing is the name given, within the Power of Three framework, to the manipulation phase when it happens right at the start of a session (typically the London or New York open): a fast, misleading move opposite to the day's real direction.

How to spot it: it happens almost always within thirty to sixty minutes of a session open, most often London or New York. The distinctive sign is speed — a fast, convincing move breaking an obvious level, followed by an equally fast return back under it. If the return drags, it was not a Judas.

How to trade it? You do not trade it, you let it happen and trade its failure. The sequence: the session opens, price sweeps an obvious level, comes back the other side, lower-timeframe structure turns, and you enter at the first value zone left by that reversal. The stop goes beyond the Judas extreme.

On the site: freedomtrading.school/en/ict-glossary/judas-swing

Signals on the clock you read

Every signal the indicator prints carries its date and time, on Paris, London, New York, UTC or exchange time — your choice. So you know at once whether it falls inside a killzone or in the middle of the Asian night.

An anti-duplicate rule keeps at least 4 bars between two signals on the same side. The time filter stays yours: the indicator does not tell you to trade killzones only, it shows you where you are.

The indicator: freedomtradingschool.com/en/ict-tradingview-indicator

One day, read end to end



Nasdaq 100, 15-minute, 21 – 22 September 2026, New York time.

22 September 2026, on the Nasdaq 100. The underlying bias is bullish: the previous day rallied more than 600 points. So the target is above — the previous day's high, around 30,608, and beyond.

During Asia, price builds a range. London opens by pushing through its bottom: at 4:30 the overnight lows are swept — the liquidity on the wrong side, taken first. Price climbs straight back into the range: the sweep did not hold.

At 9:30, at the New York open, a candle of more than 130 points crosses the range and leaves an FVG behind it: that is the displacement, and the confirmation. The previous day's high goes in the same candle.

This is not a trade to copy as is. It is the guide's sequence run on a real chart: bias, target, moment, trap, confirmation. The entry — in the FVG, in the discount of the range, or not at all — and the exit would have been your decisions.

It preloads the setup, you decide the rest

FTS Liquidity Sweep Pro is the TradingView indicator I wrote to do the repetitive part of this read for me. It stops before the entry, on purpose. Here is the boundary, precisely.

What the indicator does

Bias

ICT market structure shift, on 4-hour or daily, your choice

Levels watched

Weighted register: local and 15m pivots, 15m and 1h FVGs, daily and weekly levels

Counter-trend

Major liquidity only, marked "CT", available on every timeframe

Break

The level whose close beyond it confirms the reversal, drawable and alertable

Anti-duplicate

At least 4 bars between two signals on the same side, plus two optional locks against clusters

Traceability

The version number appears in the chart legend and in every alert

Clock

Labels on Paris, London, New York, UTC or exchange time

What stays yours

Context

Where price came from, what liquidity is left above, which session it is

Entry

At market, on a limit, or not at all

Stop

Where you actually place it, and what that does to the ratio

Size

Your risk in euros, your management, your prop firm's rules

The decision

Take this setup, or let it go — most of them get let go

By subscription, with a 3-day free trial. Everything starts from the indicator page: access, plans, annotated captures and answers to common questions. freedomtradingschool.com/en/ict-tradingview-indicator



Where to go next.

The TradingView indicator

FTS Liquidity Sweep Pro: bias, liquidity register, sweeps. It preloads the setup and stops before the entry. 3-day free trial.

freedomtradingschool.com/en/ict-tradingview-indicator

The ICT strategies

Five setups taken apart: what they are made of, what invalidates them, when not to take them.

freedomtradingschool.com/en/ict-strategies

The ICT glossary

Every notion in this guide, in its long form, with its classic mistakes.

freedomtradingschool.com/en/ict-glossary

The beginner's guide

Risk management and the basics, if they are not settled yet.

freedomtradingschool.com/en/beginner-trading-guide

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