Introduction to Day Trading and Obtaining Financial Freedom
Welcome from The Day Trading Academy CEO and Staff

My name is Marcello Arrambide, CEO and founder of The Day Trading Academy (DTA), and I would like to thank you for downloading this introductory guide to day trading.

As we are writing this guide, we are in the Galapagos Islands with some of our traders, celebrating an incredibly successful month in the markets. We consider our investing community to be family and look forward to welcoming you in joining us and growing as a trader. At The Day Trading Academy, we understand that your time and money are valuable assets and day trading education is hard to find. It is our goal to save you hours of research and help you make a wise investment while learning how to day trade.

This guide has been developed for both the curious new trader, as well as the experienced trader looking for a new strategy offering consistency. Here you will find our approach to creating a successful trader and answers to any questions regarding our program. Whether you have just been introduced to the subject, are looking for a new strategy offering consistent results, or want to trade a different market; this guide will show you how to obtain financial freedom through day trading. This program is proven and utilized daily by myself and our growing community of traders.

As with any profitable venture, time and effort are required to lay the foundation for success; there is no magic formula. Don't be intimidated, day trading isn't as overwhelming as it may seem. We coach students from all backgrounds to success and our in-house traders strive to support and develop your trading skills.

Our core values at The Day Trading Academy are Success, Wealth, and Freedom. We recognize that these powerful words represent different things to different people. It is our commitment to assist students and our DTA family in attaining their goals; whatever their interpretation of each core value may be.

Our mantra is “Let’s Create Your Lifestyle”. Over the last few years, we have helped hundreds of our students and members become consistently profitable traders; achieving their goals and creating their lifestyles. We hope this guide will serve you well in your introduction to day trading, and of course, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Stay Profitable My Friends,

Marcello Arrambide
Founder and CEO
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1 Introduction

Before we discuss day trading strategies, we will review what day trading is, different methods of teaching, how to reduce the learning curve before going “live,” and what you should look for in a program based on your needs to be successful.

Whether you’re looking to improve your current day trading strategy, improve consistency, or decrease dependence on indicators and software, we will demonstrate what sets DTA apart based on our Learn To Day Trade (LTD) Project. Our traders at The Day Trading Academy are in a unique position to assist you in achieving your goals and financial independence.

Learning how to day trade is a decision that many people make to live their dream of having complete freedom in terms of time, money, and location.

1.1 A Brief Overview of Day Trading

There are two types of people investing in the market; investors and day traders. Investors are in the market for the long haul, often waiting years to make their money. This approach places retirement and savings into the market with the simple premise that the market will go up over time, thus netting a profit to the investor.

Day Traders, however, see their profits on a daily basis, as we are in the market for as little as a few hours and rarely hold positions overnight. The principle of day trading is to make money off the fluctuations of the market. We do not worry about news, market collapse, or companies going bankrupt. Whether it is rising or falling, we capitalize on movement.

With our focus on understanding price and momentum, it is no longer necessary to spend hours on research. A quick five-minute market analysis is all that is needed before we begin trading.

Typical trading time is an hour or two. When finished, our earnings are immediately available and where they belong; in our accounts.
What is a Futures Market?

At the Day Trading Academy we trade E-Mini futures, which is an electronic index where people like you and I, can buy and sell small portions of major stock indexes. This can be done virtually from the comfort of your home, while building return capitol that offers income potential to live quite comfortably.

The definition of a futures contract “is to buy or sell a specific asset, especially commodities or shares, on a certain date, in the future for a specific price before delivery.” As financial markets evolved from farmers selling commodities they produced as futures contracts (such as grain, produce, and livestock), this principle was then applied to the financial markets. In contrast to traditionally produced goods, futures contracts were then created for financial products, such as stock indexes like the S&P 500.

Indexes comprise a compilation of stocks grouped together by industry. The S&P 500 stock index is a collection of the 500 largest publicly traded companies in the United States; including Apple, Google, Microsoft, and Exxon. This is a benefit to day traders, as we don’t exclusively study one stock but movement in the markets as a whole.

To allow individual traders to participate, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange created the E-mini futures market in 1997. E-mini futures essentially are the “mini” version of the classic large-scale contracts (1/5th the size) and are only traded electronically, (thus the “E” in E-mini).

The E-mini S&P 500 has become the largest single traded market for day traders in the world. Anyone can now participate and all traders have the same advantage in terms of software and connection speed.
The E-mini S&P 500 Is Still The Best Market To Day Trade

There is an average of two million contracts traded daily on the S&P 500 E-mini, making it the most traded market in futures. This large volume creates a fluid market that is ideal to learn on, as so many active positions create numerous trade opportunities throughout the day.

There are seasonal fluctuations in the market, however, when the volume slows we are still able to make daily profit with our “Congressive” Trading Strategy, a proven strategy developed to adapt our trade entry and exit rules to capitalize on opportunities available. Our students are successfully learning to trade the E-mini S&P 500 because we teach them how to understand the market and focus on one market at a time.

Every market has a personality we have to stay in tune with, which is one of the reasons why we’ve never recommend trading more than one market at a time. We continue to specialize in the E-mini S&P 500 because it consistently delivers results in any market environment. In other words, this is an easy market to adapt to and extract profits from.

In addition to allowing the beginning trader to enter the market with a smaller position, many of our traders stay with the S&P 500 throughout their careers as contract load size can be increased, resulting in larger trades and profits.

1.2 Basics of Buying and Selling in the Futures Market

As Day Traders, we are not required to follow the news and continually research a company’s fundamentals. We focus on technical analysis and momentum of stock prices to base our trade executions. Technical analysis uses a precise set of indicators, patterns, and movements that allow you to identify high probability opportunities in the market. It also allows you to gauge momentum, strength, and potential reversals in real-time. An active position for a day trader will last a few minutes to a few hours.
You will hear us use the terms “long” and “short.” To give you a basic definition, when you buy traditional stocks you are placing yourself in a long position; you want to see your holdings increase in value, so you can sell them for a profit. In futures trading we are making an electronic agreement with another party, so when we buy a contract based on a cash value, we would be waiting for an increase in value to make a profit.

When we learn to read the market correctly we can capitalize on all movement: Up, Down, & Sideways

Day Traders Make Money When the Market Goes Up and When it Goes Down

The reason we prefer to trade futures, instead of stocks, is there are no restrictions for shorts. When we short a position, it means we are selling our contracts to another party while we are waiting for a decrease in value to purchase our end of the agreement before the contracts expire. We actually make more money when the market goes down.

Another reason we prefer futures over stocks is its return potential. With stocks, $1 is made for every $1 that the market moves (when you win). It sounds like a great investment right? You invest $1 and, if you made a good decision, you make your money back plus profit. Futures have a much higher profit potential than regular stocks, netting up to 10 times more money for the same move in price.
2 Day Trading For Financial Freedom

Day Trading is not only a unique, exciting venture; it can also be extremely profitable. What other profession offers the ability to double, or even triple, your income while working the same amount of hours.

2.1 Why You Should Start Day Trading Right Now

When you day trade, you don't rely on anyone except yourself. For some, it's the freedom to spend time with their family; for others, it's not having a boss to report to, or working 12 hours a day doing something they don't enjoy. Trading not only offers a flexible job, but a flexible lifestyle as well.

Flexibility

When we say flexible, we not only refer to traveling and the ability to take time off work; it is being able to stay flexible with the fast changing global world. Remember, you only need an internet connection to make a living day trading. It is one of the reasons we say day trading is a lifestyle, not a profession. Many people trade a couple of hours a day, earn a great income, and have ample time to enjoy life and pursue their dreams.

Can Anyone Do It?

If there's one thing that we have learned about day trading, it's that this is something that anyone can do. A college education or an understanding of stocks is not needed to begin and learn how to trade. We will provide you with all the information and support required to succeed.

Through our proven training programs, we have helped hundreds of students and members become consistently profitable traders, with many of them transitioning into full-time professional traders.
We continue to refine the education process and shorten the learning curve by working with new and experienced traders alike. Over the years, we have been able to increase success rates from one out of ten traders (the industry average) to one out of three.

**Right Now Is The Best Time To Make Money Day Trading!**

Governments around the world have introduced Quantitative Easing, which is a massive injection of capital into the financial markets. This is causing a blistering increase in money being invested into the stock market. The result is new market volatility and volume that has been a blessing for day traders.

The recent financial crises have also caused the markets to become erratic. Crisis causes the market to move much faster and day traders are capitalizing on the uncertainty.

**Making Money in a Recession with Day Trading**

Think a recession can stop you from making money? For the typical employee, earning a living in a recession is no easy task. Jobs are scarce, and being laid-off or losing your business can be detrimental to anyone. It is a truly liberating experience to no rely on anyone else for an income.

Day traders actually make more money when the economy is at its worst. As a day trader, there is only one thing that we need to make money: market movement. As long as the market is moving up or down, we can always make money.
2.2  Day Trading is One of The Best Businesses to Own and Start!

Considerations have to be made when designing your own business; start up costs, logistics, training, and in today fast moving world flexibility. The return of investments offered by trading can be extremely rewarding.

Day Trading one of the Cheapest Businesses That YOU Can Start

Day trading is exponentially cheaper when compared to starting a conventional business. How many companies offer the potential of making hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in the first full year of business and costs less than $10,000 to start?

Start Up Costs For Day Trading

There are two ways to begin day trading: spend thousands of hours back testing ideas until one works consistently, or find someone that has already done the research and learn their technique.

The most common mistake is purchasing several different strategies, software programs, and paying for coaching. Together, all of these costs can reach tens of thousands of dollars.

Most day trading companies sell basic packages upwards of $5,000 (and higher) and charge $300 a month for coaching, which can easily push your initial investment to over $10,000 easily.
The industry average to start day trading is roughly between $5,000 and $7,000. That figure comprises everything one needs to get started, including opening an account, with no hidden fees or extra costs.

Here is a breakdown of what to expect:

1. Proven Day Trading System: $1,500 - $10,000
2. Initial Capital to open a Futures account: $2,500 - $5,000
3. NinjaTrader Platform (LIVE version): $60/month

The exact cost of the day trading system is dependent on the student’s prior experience, knowledge, and level of training needed to master the techniques. Training is unpredictable since everyone is unique. More importantly, everyone learns at their own speed and capacity.

All of our training program members are given free access to the software they will be trading on, further reducing the capital needed to start. This allows everyone to enter the program without having to purchase a trading platform or open an account to “trade live” right away.

2.3 What You Need to Begin Day Trading

Starting day trading isn’t complicated. Some say that it takes a lot of money, and others say only a specific type of person can day trade. We say anyone can begin to day trade, as long as you have the right tools to get started.

The six things you need to get started day trading

- Computer/Laptop
- Internet Connection
- Charting Platform
- Broker
- Trading Strategy
- Easy Market To Learn
Charting Platform

We use specialized software to view and analyze the market. If you are using the wrong trading platform, order submission, or trade management system, learning to trade can be a time-consuming and error prone process. While trading futures, the main players are going to be Tradestation and NinjaTrader.

Since 2003, NinjaTrader has pioneered easy to use, yet powerful order entry and trade management functionality to overcome the limitations of other trading platforms. With the versatility provided by this platform, we use NinjaTrader to better achieve our trading goal; profitability.

Our team is technically familiar with NinjaTrader and provides basic client assistance. The NinjaTrader team, however, is deeply versed in all aspects of platform operation and can be easily accessed through email or their support forum. In addition, NinjaTrader provides daily educational webinars and a complete context sensitive online user's manual and numerous product videos to minimize your platform learning curve.

The most important things about choosing charting software are the following:

- Reliability
- Easy to use
- Price
- Real-Time Data

Regardless of what markets you trade, what style of trader you are, or whether you require real-time or end of day analytics; ensure your trading platform provides the tools to analyze the markets and your trading ideas in a flexible, customizable, and user-friendly manner.
Broker

If you wanted to write a check, you would need to be associated with a bank that has your checking account. In order to trade the markets, a brokerage account is needed to transfer money to the contracts that are being purchased. Generally, brokerage accounts for the futures market need to be funded with a minimum of $2,500 to $5,000. While trading futures, options, or forex stocks, there is no reason to use one of the big names brokerages, as there are specialized brokers specifically designed for retail day traders, you, with very low costs.

These brokers give futures traders better pricing per transaction and excellent support on software platforms used to trade the futures markets. Generally, the more trading that is done, the cheaper the commissions will be.

We have an exclusive list of brokers that provide lower commission rates to everyone in the training program. Whether you choose to enroll in our program or not, it is important to us that you succeed. We are more than happy to share our recommended broker list with you. Feel free to contact us via phone or email at http://TheDayTradingAcademy.com/contact.

A Trading Strategy

Day Trading is one of the most profitable businesses in the world. Numerous companies sell day trading software and training. For a beginner, your options are to create your own strategy from scratch, or find one that is already proven to work consistently.

Creating your own strategy is no easy task. It requires countless hours of back testing and research to find the right combination of probabilities, movements, and indicators.

Finding a strategy that works reliably can also be quite difficult. With all the information on the Internet, it's hard to decipher what works and what doesn't. Only choose a strategy that makes sense and carefully consider whether the company is trying to sell you software or indicators. Potential red flags include trading strategies that rely heavily on software or claim to have "proprietary indicators."
The rule of thumb is to look for a strategy with the fewest number of indicators involved. Indicators are lagging which means they calculate information in a delayed time frame after the price has moved. The less indicators, the better the strategy can be by reading price.

**Reading the Market**

By keeping a simple chart, we can immediately assess what the market is performing and profit from the potential opportunities presented. Our strategy uses a few indicators that help with volatility and momentum, but our main objective is to understand the market environment and adapt to its changes by reading live price.

To be successful in this business, traders need to truly understand how the market works based on price action, not indicators or software. By learning price action, and a solid trading strategy, you will never rely solely on any company or person to make money day trading. This knowledge will serve you for years to come, as you don't have to worry about what happens if a particular indicator no longer ‘works’ or if the company that trained you goes out of business.

**An Easy Market To Learn: Meet the S&P 500 (ES)**

You don't want to start day trading by getting yourself into something that you can't handle. Whether you decide to trade stocks, or even futures, make sure to choose a market that is easy to learn. The easier the market, the better it will be for your training and your new lifestyle.
The ES is one of the most popular E-mini futures contracts in the world today. A combination of great volume and fluid movement has made it one of the cornerstone markets for day traders. The E-mini S&P 500 is one of the most appealing markets to trade, because there are so many people trading throughout the day. This provides significantly more opportunities than other markets.

We choose the ES for the following reasons:

- Great volume
- Easy to learn & trade on
- Minimal erratic movement
- Great for beginners/experts

When asked how much money a trader can make with the E-mini S&P 500, we always say an average of two points a day. This is what a beginner can make without any risk management and without maximizing profit on any trades. By leveraging contracts behind these two points, we can make between $100 - $1,000, and more, for the same time in the market.

![Diagram of ES futures market with ticks and points](Image)

Entries and exits are filled at 1/4 increments of price called "Ticks" in the ES futures market.

The ES has 4 ticks to every point and is worth $12.50 per tick, (or $50 per point). So if you buy a contract at $800 and sell it at $800.50 our profit will be $25 (2 ticks at $12.50 each). Likewise, if you buy a contract at $800 and sell it at $801, a one-point difference, your profit is $50. Utilizing our most successful Legacy Trade setups, we start our student traders with a strategy that uses a two-point profit target, resulting in $100 for every contract traded.

The key to making money day trading is consistency.

If we are able to consistently make 2 points a day, that equals $100 per day. When we increase our contracts to 10, for example, that turns the same trade into $1,000 per day. The E-mini S&P will allow hundreds of trades at one time. Not that it is necessary, but it gives an understanding of why our traders continue to trade this market after mastering it.
When we start to minimize risk, profit potential can double. Combining our legacy trades (in our basic curriculum) with our Congressional Trading Strategy, members of the Day Trading Academy find profitability after completion of the program and development of their trading plan.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Potential Profit</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 -4 Points/Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per Month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Contract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100 - $200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2000 - $4000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$24,000 - $48,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Contracts</td>
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<tr>
<td>$500 - $1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000 - $20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$120,000 - $240,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Contracts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000 - $2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20,000 - $40,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>$240,000 - $480,000</td>
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Just imagine the potential as you move from intermediate to advanced, and finally pro. Traders at this stage know when to tighten risk or exit gracefully, increase their profits targets, and take trades that have winning ratios of over 80%. When traders learn what we call “reward management,” the possibilities are endless.

2.4 The Secret to Trading Successfully

The secret to day trading is consistency, which is found by reading the market the way it presents itself rather than the way you hope to see it. By learning to read momentum, price action, and market theories; we set new traders up for success by giving them techniques for market analysis.

Beginner and advanced market analysis is taught in the curriculum to develop your trading aptitude.
Indicators are tools, not the answer to success. Success lies in sound judgment when trading and knowledge of why the market moves the way it does. This understanding will keep you in good trades, reaching your profit targets, and out of bad trades that appear enticing.

**What Kind of Trader Are You?**

It’s important to understand to start with something that is in your comfort zone. If you don’t, you’re spending money on random training for no reason. This is precisely the reason we have seen so much success at The Day Trading Academy. Students are encouraged to trade within a structure, rather than a rigid set of rules. After realizing what market and strategy is best for starting your career as a day trader, it’s time to decide what kind of trader you are. This depends mostly on your personality and risk tolerance.

Some traders want to be in the market the least amount of time possible while others prefer to have longer-term positions. Once you learn how to read the market and understand how it works, you will be able to refine your own strategy and apply that to any market around the world.

A day trading coach will help you discover what kind of trader you are based on your actions in the market. The Day Trading Academy also provides feedback and reinforcement on your trades through video analysis of all your charts. This approach helps identify and strengthen weaknesses.
What Kind of Traders Are We?

The picture below shows a few of the traders that have risen through the ranks to become some of the best; we call them Master Traders. They all have different styles, personalities, and have reached consistency day trading in different ways. Part of the original group of students to convince Marcello to begin teaching again; they have stayed with the Day Trading Academy to assist with coaching and advanced trade concepts, helping develop the next generation of Master Traders.

Nikolai on the left, aka Hit Man, is a very aggressive trader and likes to capitalize on quick market fluctuations. His style is adaptive to the changes in buying and selling pressure and he decides how aggressive he will be based on how well the market moving. Nikolai loves to run our live and review classes to teach others the techniques he uses for analysis.

Jim second from the right, aka Super Man, is more of a scalper and loves to trade all day. He watches the markets 9.30am to 4.00 pm (New York time). For Jim, the idea is to see how well he is able to handle himself in the market the entire day, often amassing over twenty points. He is a rules based trader and many of his concepts and ideas have been incorporated into The Day Trading Academy's strategy.
Manny on the right, aka The Trading Connoisseur is a very conservative trader that only looks for an average of 2-3 points per day. He normally finishes within 15-20 minutes taking only 1-2 trades and loves to spend his extra time on the beach with his family. By leveraging your position with increased contracts, you can make the same profit with two points at ten contracts or twenty points with one.

You can decide how much time you want to spend trading, or more importantly, how much time you want away from the market. This year, Manny took five weeks off from trading to bring his entire family to Italy, solely on his day trading income.

Manny was one of the first to attend DTA’s Military Training and has recently returned from London, where he trained a new student who opted for one-on-one development to begin their career. His market psychology classes are a must-see at the annual seminar.

To learn more about our personalized training packages for new students and Military Training opportunities from one of our Master Traders feel free to contact us via phone or email at http://TheDayTradingAcademy.com/contact.

Manny and Marcello overlooking the Grand Canal courtesy of our Congressive Strategy
3 A Look Into The Day Trading Academy

There are a lot of programs and software out there and most of them don’t tell you or teach you exactly what it takes to be successful day trading. Take what we offer in the following pages and compare it to other programs; use it to evaluate the trading packages you are interested in. Whether or not you choose the DTA, we want to give you insight into what mentoring methods and trading techniques have worked for our successful students.

3.1 The Learn to Day Trade Project: Humble Beginnings

The Learning How to Day trade (LTD) project was a unique venture we launched several years ago while helping traders. We began to ask the question; what does it take to be a day trader? We decided to launch the LTD project. We handpicked a group of traders and trained them in order to see exactly what it takes to introduce someone to day trading, build their capabilities, and determine what was needed for them to attain financial independence as a Master Trader.

By making success a core focal point, we guide our traders to concentrate on making the right decisions rather than focusing on the money. Through our unique approach of focusing on the market and understanding market structure, we saw something that we never expected; an over 300% improvement on successful results.
A university study found that the industry success rate is roughly 10%

To put this in perspective; on average, only 1 out of 10 people are able to make money day trading. By being able to understand how the market works and incorporating that into the training program, we have been able to increase success rates to 1 out of 3.

Our day trading had such high profitability that it became evident the only way to net higher returns was to begin to help others. It would allow us to get “hands on” to continue improving the Congressional Trading System, make our own trading better by getting back to teaching, and continuing to make high returns on our capital.

Our intensive curriculum takes traders from point A to point B; teaching someone that knows nothing about Day Trading and giving them all of our combined knowledge and tips from our careers in the industry. Day trading is a community and our new pool of Master Traders are helping to take advanced/pro traders to the next level as well.

We expanded our LTD Project with our new day trading center in Colombia. We started with three interns from the prestigious EAFIT University and trained them to become professional traders. Our one-on-one Military Training was refined during this process and our interns broke our records.

The first trader was ready to go live after three weeks, the second trader was trading live after 4 weeks, and the last intern was trading live after 2.5 months. Prior to that, the fastest we had seen anyone go live was 6 weeks, followed by 8 weeks.

Our first in-house Colombian traders, Sebas and Oscar
3.2 Day Trading Academy Approach To Profitability

It isn’t about making a million dollars every day. The goal is be able to make money consistently every single day. It is learning how to be reliant on yourself so you can focus on the actual movement of the market. We always try to put this into perspective for new traders that are excited about making money.

*It's more important to not to lose money than it is to make money*

Traders shouldn’t focus solely on Risk vs Reward; what traders should really concentrate on is developing sound decision making abilities. By focusing and understanding how the market works, instead of indicators and rules, we developed a complete set of trades that add a huge number to our bottom line.

I’m sure you’ve heard the catch phrase, “It’s easier to destroy something than it is to create it”. The same concept applies to the market: it’s much easier to lose money than it is to make it. That is why we focus on not losing our earned profits first by making better decisions.

The 2:1 Risk vs. Reward we use, coupled with our high probability trade setups that have proven themselves over the years, are key reasons why our students are so successful. When we are able to win more trades than we lose, the odds are always in our favor.

3.3 DTA’s Winning Strategy and Trading System

To give some context, our beginner students (with NO prior experience) average around a 67.42% winning rate. Our Intermediate level students average around a 74.48% winning trades (reason being at this level, we teach an additional component of trade and risk management that allows us to win more and lose less), and our Advanced students average 77.63%+ winning trades.
Your Focus Should Be learning How to Read and Understand the Market!

Learning to understand how the market works is hard enough as it is, it gets even harder when traders are using day trading software and rules based systems that aren’t able to adapt to low & high volume situations.

Many companies try to sell their day trading indicators as “proprietary indicators”. We would like to formally tell you that all of these “proprietary indicators” can be found online for free.

This is one of the reasons we tell people that indicators aren’t a magic solution to winning trades; it is about reading and understanding the market. Anyone can take indicators and make them look fancy with bright colors to show winning results using revamped indicators that have been around for years. Don’t believe the hype of industry secrets. They are designed to appear to be the answer to your problems.

To be successful in this business, you truly need to understand how the market works based on price action and not indicators or software. By learning Price Action combined with a solid trading strategy, you will never rely solely on any one company, indicators, or software to tell you when to take trades.

This knowledge will serve you for years to come, as you don’t have to worry about what happens if a particular indicator doesn’t ‘work’ anymore. Could you imagine if the company you invested in went out of business and you couldn’t access your software or indicators?

If the indicators you were sold were no longer available, you may be forced to figure out a temporary solution, or worse: have to stop trading. No one can ever take away the skill of being able to read and understand the market. Learn how to read the market and understand how it works, because you will be able to apply that to any market around the world.
We perfected our winning strategies by keeping a few things in mind:

**K.I.S.S – Keep it Simply Simple**

- **Trade strictly futures**
  - E-mini S&P 500  
- **Win more than you lose:**
  - Ensure winners are bigger than losers  
- **Simplicity (clean charts, simple setups)**
  - One Chart & 3 Simple Indicators  
- **Stay disciplined and follow the plan**
  - Goal: To be profitable everyday

### 3.4 Make a Living Trading Using Our “Congressive Day Trading System”

There are tons of day trading systems out there with lots of promises about what is possible and isn’t possible. The Congressional Trading System is all about adapting to market conditions, being conservative when the market isn’t moving well, and aggressive when the market is moving well.

**Congressive = Conservative + Aggressive**

This concept is what we call "Congressive"; we are conservative when the market is not moving well and aggressive when the market is trending. Sometimes we make exceptions to our profit target by reading underlying behavior; this is a skill we teach our traders to understand and take advantage of market momentum.
When we can read the market environment and understand its structure, we are able to make money every day. In all honesty, markets today are easy to trade. Anyone can make money when the market is flying in one direction and trending beautifully. The market changes its behavior often and we want to quickly adapt to make sure we can capitalize on opportunities the market is giving us.

It doesn’t matter if you are trading one contract or ten; it’s all about making the right decision to consistently extract a profit from the market daily.

**You can lose 61.74% of trades and still make money with the DTA method**

How in the world is this possible? We know it sounds completely counter-intuitive, but it has to do with a very important element of trading: RISK vs. REWARD. This refers to the amount of money you are risking on a trade (if you lose) compared to the amount of money you set as a profit target (if you win). Through thousands of back tests for our legacy trades, we introduce new traders to a fixed profit target set-up that remains consistently profitable.

With DTA’s Congressional Trading System, we win twice as much as we lose on any given trade. That means on average we’re risking $1 to make $2, or more. This is critical to your trading success. If you do the math, even if you lose 60% of the time (lose 6 out of 10 trades), you will STILL be profitable with our method because of the risk management and money management techniques we teach.
Understanding Risk vs Reward with the DTA method

Most of us get involved in day trading because we want to make money. By focusing on the money, we lose sight of what is important, which is making a consistent income and making the right decisions. Even if we only make a few dollars a day in the beginning, that can later be magnified with extra shares of stock or contracts. A few dollars can turn into a few hundred dollars, which then leads to a few thousand dollars per day.

Trading full time is all about being able to generate consistent returns. With a 2:1 Risk vs. Reward, our students and members are able to generate money while occasionally taking losing trades. One aspect we focus on is identifying which trades appear valid, but are not compelling.

This ensures that we are only increasing the numbers of profitable trades. For new students, automated stops take the guesswork out of what is an acceptable risk tolerance until you learn our advance risk management.

Automated stops utilizing our HTS technique, Hold to Target or Stop, ensure our beginner traders learn to read movement, without exposing themselves to unnecessary risk. After a trader is familiar with this environment, they begin to reduce the relationship between potential loss and potential profit. Remember: a string of profitable trades only matter when compared to the number of trades that did not work out.
4  A System Built For Traders By Traders

The Day Trading Academy was built by traders, for traders. We don't train “the masses”. We are focused on teaching people how to day trade while learning from them as well. Trading isn't about automatically plotting indicators and order executions; it is success through practice and understanding.

We want every day trader we train to be able to trade successfully on their own after completing the program. Our program is built for you to succeed after learning the techniques we utilize, without further reliance on us. However, if you wish to remain part of the DTA family, we welcome you to continue to grow as a trader alongside us. We have had the pleasure of being there the moment many of our traders reach the ultimate milestone in a trader's career; financial independence.

4.1  The Day Trading Academy Master Traders

Everyone who runs the live trading classes, or is involved in mentoring, is an accomplished trader. Our instructors have been through our training program and are now doing this for a living. This is also part of a unique trading community that we have created at The Day Trading Academy. Everyone is passionate about making sure you succeed.

Teaching Makes Us Better Day Traders

Live classes offer us an opportunity to personally train a group of day traders and give them the extra insight they need to compete in the futures market. Certain aspects and nuances of the market are better taught in a live market environment, as opposed to after the market closes; where hindsight is always 20/20.
When teaching a class, a trader becomes more aware of what the market is doing because of the responsibility to point it out to others. This in turn, spills over into someone’s actual day trading progress. Instructors, as well as students, benefit from this collaboration, keying in on different aspects of the market that may have gone unnoticed otherwise.

**Confidence That More Than One Person Is Making Money**

Imagine the difference you would feel by knowing that others are trading live with a strategy that you’re using. Having the ability to show and teach someone else shows true mastery of a subject and giving others the ability to see a different point of view is invaluable. This day trading education cycle is our approach to continue learning and improving, while giving back to others.

On occasion, we have hot seats during the live classes in which a Master Trader is working personally with graduate students, similar to our military style training, as they analyze the market together. The hot seats offer trader’s the chance to help run our live classes, allowing those who are working on their consistency to get a different view of the market and ask questions.

**Figuring out What You Feel Comfortable with As a Trader**

You have to find your comfort zone as a trader. If you try to trade like somebody else, instead of what you are comfortable with, you’re not going to be successful. Understanding different styles of trading allows people to determine what fits into their comfort zone.

This is best accomplished by connecting with other people so you can learn and build your own style. Trading doesn't have to be a lonely occupation. We often match up members in our training program to a Master Trader that fits their style. Working together keeps everyone moving forward and profitable.
4.2 How Hundreds of Traders Have Found Profitability Through DTA

If learning to day trade is something you’re seriously considering, the Day Trading Academy is uniquely positioned to get you started. There’s a reason so many DTA students and members have become consistently profitable traders and many have transitioned into full-time professional traders.

**Why Students Choose The Day Trading Academy’s Trading Programs**

1. **We teach you to truly understand how the market works based on Price Action and NOT Indicators or Software.**

   You will learn price action and never rely solely on indicators or software to tell you when to take trades. This knowledge will serve you for years to come, as you don’t have to worry about what happens if a particular indicator no longer ‘works’. We offer daily market recaps so you can compare your trades with our legacy trades and in-depth market analysis. In the member’s area, we have three years worth of results!

   We want every trader to rely on themselves; not software or indicators in their career. By learning price action, a trader can apply what we teach to any market or index around the world, trade any timeframe, and trade successfully.

2. **Our method works in ALL markets; whether an up-market, down-market, or a sideways market**

   The market is dynamic and it is imperative to understand how to trade in a strong trend, as well as if the market is not trending. We teach you specific trades and rules to help traders make money whether the market is going up, down, or more importantly, sideways. One of the unique aspects of learning how to day trade is that we can actually make more money when the market goes down than when it goes up.
3. Our Mentoring Programs cater to all levels (Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, and Professional)

For our beginning students, we understand that trading can be daunting. There is a lot to learn. That’s why we structure our training and mentoring program to start with the fundamentals, establishing a solid foundation for the trader that knows nothing about the markets. This will enable every person in our trading program to learn the basics quickly and easily, and read market movements that everyone should know at any stage of their day trading careers.

More experienced traders who join us find that our Intermediate and Advanced sections of the course address a number of techniques that will help reduce your risk and let profits run. Many traders use our method and techniques as a foundation for other markets to reach profitability. It is about being able to develop the correct discipline, patience, and view of market in the right context.

We also have an invitation only Professional Traders room (Pro’s room), where you will be trading with fellow DTA Pro’s, helping each other with new trading strategies and setups while advancing your trading and profits at the same time.

4. Limited number of students allowed into the program

We’re serious about helping you succeed and limit class sizes in order to provide high level mentoring and the personal attention you deserve. We know we will not be able to pass our expertise to all our students at once, so our live classes and review classes are recorded in the member’s area for new students who join.

If uncertain about your trading decisions, you should look for personal attention at the beginning of your career to correct habits and mistakes you may develop in simulated training.
5 Welcome To The Program

When you begin your journey, we will teach you the ins and outs of setting up your trading platform, downloading historical data to review, and starting the simulated trading to enhance your market aptitude. Your competency will be built in this environment, so you do not lose your hard-earned capital when we make it to the live environment.

Learn, Practice, Trade

We organize the information into learning modules, giving students information one building block at a time. We confirm that each student has a complete understanding of the elements that comprise our trading strategy. We are with you as you learn, practice, and trade.

Each block allows you to go back and review the intricacies of topics covered, as you advance from a beginner to an intermediate trader. Once you begin applying the concepts and principles, (achieving a level of consistency with legacy trades), we move forward; increasing your profitability in the intermediate section.

We want to ensure you learn everything right, the first time, when you begin your trading career. All training material is available online in our curriculum database for you to begin trading for yourself.
5.1 Our Training Program

The time it takes to go from a simulation account to a funded account will vary from trader to trader, based on their commitment to learning the program. While we have had a few traders begin to trade live successfully in as little as 6 weeks, these traders are the exception, not the rule. Many of us have full-time jobs, school, families, and other circumstances that will make learning to trade a part-time endeavor. For those reasons, we’ve developed our training program to cater to all, allowing you to pace yourself through our curriculum.

DTA Required Checkpoints

We have to develop the skill of learning how to day trade; very similar to how we learn to ride a bike or how doctors learn to perform surgery. Let go of your pride when learning to day trade. Remember, this is new to you and it will take time to learn the fundamentals.

We have checkpoints through the training process to reinforce all the concepts introduced with homework. Also, there are written, audio, and visual formats to ensure that you learn the easiest and the fastest way.

To use a university analogy, you pass the course by doing lots of little homework projects and tests throughout the year; not just one exam. Students send in their charts (homework) so we can identify potential patterns that may need to be corrected.

Working with our technical coaches, you will get personalized feedback on your decisions via video, so we can explain and demonstrate concepts visually.
5.2 The Day Trading Academy Style Of Trading

Life expectancy as a trader is not defined by a single win or loss, but the collective wins and losses over a period of time. After completing your education, it is time to implement the strategies and systems by developing your trading plan, outlining your objectives, and practiced entries and exits. Markets fluctuate and so should your trading plan.

We want our traders to adjust to any market condition by reading the immediate and overall market momentum, reviewing the structure of the market, and applying sound decisions. Upon starting the Day Trading Academy, you will learn rules-based trading so you can begin to pick up entry and exit points based on market expectation. During simulated trading, these rules create a structured approach so you take the trades without question, until you can recognize the nuances in entry patterns.

A Strategic Approach To Profits

Our rules-based approach to trading is extremely flexible for all types of traders. We give you a proven skill set and you choose what you are comfortable with as a trader. In the beginning it is important to follow the patterns we highlight, to gain market aptitude. Once your confidence increases, we will begin to make small changes to trade entries, exits, and risk management.

We want to take the right kinds of trades and these guidelines help us determine your trading style so we can increase your consistency.
Experienced traders with an understanding of market movement will be able to adapt to our system quickly once their charts are set up and the curriculum completed. The flexibility in DTA lies in our ability to understand momentum and price action, allowing those with experience to incorporate their style of trading into our view of the market.

After students demonstrate their ability to read the market, we can incorporate advanced or pro trades. Advanced trades are trade setups that fit the basic rules but also allow for dynamic profit targets. Pro trades are trades that do not fit the “classic rules,” but are extremely compelling and high probability.

5.3 Members Area Preview

**Live Weekly Trading Classes**

Our live trading room is where we put all of our concepts into real time action. We always prefer to train in a live market environment to ensure that we learn the correct market expectation. This live trading room is always led by one of our Graduate Master Traders and classes are held two days a week starting at 9:30 EST. The other days of the week you will put the concepts and ideas you have learned into practice.

Live trading classes are the primary reason we have so many members after completion of the program. It is an excellent learning experience having one of our Master Traders there to analyze the market with you. Each Master Trader provides their unique techniques to observe the market and its structure.

These classes are another building block while you learn to become a trader that is able to decisively take trades on your own, without the company of a mentor. The live and recorded classes result in a dramatic reduction to your personal learning curve, as you will see and hear professional traders evaluate their positions, handle themselves under pressure, and most importantly, how they handle risk management while in the trade.
Weekly Review Classes With DTA Master Traders

Live market trading can be intense and demands our attention, so we offer a review class following the live sessions to further discuss anything our students missed or would like to know more about in detail. Students have the opportunity to get further instruction on market nuances or debate certain aspects to make that day’s session more profitable. Taking technical information and breaking it down to its basic building blocks helps the traders, as well as those there to observe the process. Having the experience of our diverse group of traders will ensure a well-rounded understanding.

Daily Market Recaps

Daily market recaps of every trading day, win or lose, will help you compare your day’s trades to all valid trade opportunities during the market session. We have over 3 years worth of recaps recorded. In these recaps, a Master Trader covers not only all valid trades according to the Congressional Trading Strategy, but also their nuances and management based on the day’s structure.

The daily recaps are one of the best tools in our trading arsenal; teaching everything from how to get better entries based on fundamental movement in price to how to adapt to those difficult market environments.

Regardless of which days historical data you download to trade in a simulated environment you will have the reassurance of evaluating your decisions with a recorded summary of that day’s opportunities.

Video Library

We understand that many students have demanding careers, families, and other commitments; so we record all of the live and review classes. They are later stored in our video library, giving you access to anything you might have missed.

One of our most successful Master Traders was able to learn how to day trade without attending a single live class. He has been trading successfully for over two years because he could watch the classes after hours.
Those who have full-time lives can take advantage of our database to stay current at a time convenient for them. Imagine the convenience of being able to learn how to trade at night or on weekends!

5.4 **Annual Pro Trader's Seminar**

Our annual pro’s seminar is where we gather as a small group to let our pro traders work with members of the DTA family one-on-one. We cover advanced concepts, as well as work on what you personally need throughout the event. The intimate group environment allows for everyone to learn about best practices and from each other.

These seminars are designed to give you the power to take your trading ability to the next level. Every event includes presentations from various Master Traders, to share invaluable insights on the unique approach that each uses. The focus of these annual events is to give traders a deeper understanding of the markets and allow traders to recognize how to adapt to any market condition. To date, we have held our seminars across 3 continents to accommodate all of our traders around the world.

The pro’s seminar is always held every February in Tampa, FL (USA) around the President’s Day Holiday, usually the weekend of February 15\(^{th}\). The event is 2 days with an optional 3\(^{rd}\) day of Master Trader coaching. We also plan on introducing a more intensive intimate style seminar at our day trading center in Colombia called Military Training University. This will be a full two-week, in person program, to increase effectiveness and expertise for our traders through in-depth coaching.
5.5 Advanced Training: Military Training (MT)

With the success in our new Colombian Day Trading Center, we plan on expanding our Military Training (MT). This is a completely personalized training experience. Instead of focusing on specific parts of the curriculum, we focus on honing your skills, both weaknesses and strengths, in a live market environment.

We tailor the full 5-day experience to individual trader’s needs, using live market experiences to provide invaluable lessons on how to achieve success. The instructors are our very own Master Traders who have been through the very same training program and are actively trading their own account live for a living.

The concept behind Military Training is to get you from point A to point B (to be a consistently profitable day trader) as quickly as possible. The market is more than just learning how to read patterns and charts; you also have to learn about yourself. We use this private time with you to review market and trader psychology and how it applies specifically to your circumstances.

We trade live from 9am EST to roughly 11-11.30am EST and use the rest of the day for training. We have house numerous traders in our new penthouse in Medellin, Colombia. Soon, anyone from our training program will be able to choose which center to visit, whether it is on the beaches of Brazil or the historical streets of Istanbul. After all, we have always said that day trading is a lifestyle and not a profession.
5.6 Military Training University (MTU)

With the increased demand, we are now offering a two-week Military Training program. Due to the limited availability that we have to offer one-on-one training we have decided to beta test a new “group style” of Military Training. This will be a second seminar each year with more personalized training, in a group setting. The program will be held in our trading center in Medellin, Colombia.

Traders will be able to access not just one, but multiple Master Traders, with a ratio of three to four people per Master Trader. Instead of just one week of Military Training, you will be able to receive a full two weeks (10 business days) of training.

Another benefit behind our Military Training University (MTU) is to encourage traders to explore groupthink. We have improved our Congressional Trading Strategy over time by sharing ideas and refining our process with our Master Traders. By having access to a group of traders you will learn from the mistakes of others, improve techniques, and thought process by witnessing different points of view.

We have learned through our first day trading center in Medellin, Colombia, that this in-person group style training can be incredibly valuable. We plan on hosting a select number of traders (dependent on availability) as well.

Honing your skills is our primary focus, to enable you become one our very own Master Traders.
6 Free Advice For New Traders

One of the keys to being a successful day trader is not only understanding how
the market works, but also your own personality. People don’t step out of their
comfort zone, especially when it involves money. This is a primary reason some
people never become consistently profitable day traders.

6.1 The Biggest Obstacles For New Traders

Learning how to successfully trade takes time, discipline, and patience. These
skills are necessary to develop the self-control and perseverance required to
understand the market before you start a live account. Many people become overly
confident and rush into the market, instead of developing the fundamentals.

Be Humble & Disciplined

Day Trading is a skill that you have to learn, not something you are born
with. The same market that brings you to the promised land will bring you to your
knees first.

Trying to process thousands of pieces of information is impossible; you simply
won’t be successful. When you follow a plan that works and you stick to it, you will
see the results. The ones who make it are the ones that always stay focused, keep an
open mind, and consistently work to better themselves.

Most people are not built to multitask and can only handle one thing at a time

A majority of lost trades
occur when a trader deviates
from their trading plan.
Keeping it simple allows a day
trader to keep his focus and
motivation in check.
Day trading strategies are
overdone by many in the
industry, and forget to keep it
as simple as possible. You can
complicate trading very
quickly, and before you know it,
you can be looking at 20
screens and 80 different colors.
People Tend To Take Shortcuts, Seeking Gratification

Day Trading is as much about your mental state as it is trying to analyze and dissect a set of indicators. Too many shortcuts are taken in the very beginning of trading careers, which causes a rift in the clear understanding of market principles, indicators, and concepts. This is why many beginning traders try to take the easy way out and look for trading software.

In order to learn a new skill, a good foundation has to be built. Automated software is aimed at making everyone think that knowledge about the market isn’t needed. There is no substitute for time spent trading the market, as it builds the necessary patience in the actual environment you will be placing your orders in.

You will not develop the knowledge needed to be competitive in several markets using a semi-automatic or automatic trading program. Look for a curriculum offering a strategic rules-based approach. The discipline gained learning this trade makes a difference that is notable in your account statements.

The Person Who Will Teach You The Most Is You

If you have a losing trade, study it; record your thought-process, and write down your emotion during the trade. What is there to learn from? Was it a trade that could have been avoided, or was it taken hastily? This is one of the most important aspects of trading! If you do not spend the time learning from your mistakes, you are sure to repeat them in the future. Trades that do not make the target or run against your position happen to everyone. The difference between those who make it and those who don’t is that successful traders limit mistakes they make repeatedly.

6.2 Using Simplicity To Create An Edge In The Market

One of the most important things that we teach our day traders is the ability to read and understand the market. When we really understand how the market moves, (and most importantly, why the market moves the way it does) indicators become secondary and the market becomes the primary thing we pay attention to. It’s the market that we are trading after all, not indicators.
With that said, there are certain indicators that develop a technical edge in the way we view underlying components in market movement. The following technical indicators are useful in setting up a winning strategy for markets such as the E-mini S&P 500.

**Tick Charts: What Are They & Why You Should Use Them Simplicity To Create An Edge In The Market**

Tick charts are day trading charts that measure transactions. They are very simple to use, and highly effective to be able to gauge momentum and strength. With the wild fluctuations that we have seen in the market, it is much easier to identify pullbacks for entries and slowdowns for exits when using tick charts.

A new bar is plotted when there have been a certain number of transactions made, while plotting the high and low price with closing price. Tick style charts allow us to be more precise getting in and out of the market, but more importantly, help us capitalize on immediate market momentum.

![An example of tick charts](image)

You can also use time-based charts for volume, but we have found that by focusing on the actual movement of the market, you can really identify the strength and the amount of momentum on any given day.
Using Fibonacci Indicators to Improve Your Day Trading

Using Fibonacci techniques and strategies to improve your day trading can be extremely effective if you learn how to use it properly. There are several different ways that you can use the Fibonacci principles in your day trading. Most people use Fibonacci indicators as support and resistance as a “where to go” and “where the market is going to pivot” type system. Please never pay for Fibonacci Software, you can find it FOR FREE!

![Using Fibonacci Indicators to Anticipate Market Levels](image)

Price Action, Price Action, Price Action

The single most important thing that you can master is to price action. There is no software, indicator, or trading guru that can take that away from you. The old adage is true, “Give a man a fish and feed him for one night; teach a man to fish and feed him for a lifetime”.

Indicators are always lagging which means that they are calculating market movements in a delay. Make sure to focus on price action and learn how to read the market
7 Joining the Day Trading Academy

We’ve reached the finale. We hope this guide has been helpful in preparing you on your quest to becoming a professional day trader. Our multifaceted approach provides students a thorough understanding of the market. We are excited to share our knowledge and will soon offer this program in four different languages.

7.1 What You Will Receive Joining DTA Traders

The Day Trading Academy has everything you need to become successful in this business.

We offer a thorough curriculum featuring proven methods of market analysis, technical observation, trade selection, weekly classes with live market instruction, and assistance from our Master Traders to guide you through your growth.

The education process never stops at the DTA. We continue to update our legacy trades with advanced and pro trades to help our members grow and capitalize on opportunities.

Our program gets you learning to trade immediately. We teach you the basic skills for success, then intermix trading theories and discipline as you progress through the curriculum, gradually introducing you to the concepts to take your trading from “good” to “exceptional.”

7.2 Costs of Joining

Your individual experience and knowledge of the market will determine which program is best suited for you. Program openings are limited to ensure an adequate student to instructor ratio. We are dedicated to giving the individual attention you deserve. Our focus is truly quality, not quantity.

Upon registering for the program, you will receive all of our chart settings (which includes our optimized indicators) to work with our trading strategy and access to the online curriculum. For those who would like to develop more as a trader; you can opt for a more intensive package to access our video library, live trading rooms and reviews, our daily market recaps as well as our staff of proven traders.
Day Trading Academy Membership Options

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**Training Program openings are limited:** If you want to learn more about program opportunities follow this link or call 1-800-645-6349 (USA). You may also enter your email to receive our free newsletter with exclusive events, such as live trading class invites and exclusive webinars.

All of us at the Day Trading Academy hope that this guide has given you insight to our processes, how we train traders, and what you need to become a successful and consistent day trader. We are always interested in hearing from other day traders; we welcome feedback and look forward to sharing and growing in this exciting venture.