MarketUnclouded

Stocks • Options • Trading Education

FREE BEGINNER GUIDE · 2026 EDITION

How to Read a Stock Chart

Candlesticks, trends, support and resistance, volume and moving averages, explained step by step on real charts, with a simple routine you can use on any stock.



Apple (AAPL) daily chart with the 9, 21, 50 and 200-day moving averages, Nov 18, 2026 close.

How to Read a Stock Chart

A free beginner guide · 2026 Edition

By Daniel Higgins · Market Unclouded LLC

© 2026 Market Unclouded LLC. All rights reserved. You may download, print and share this free guide for personal, non-commercial educational use, unchanged and with this notice. No other reproduction without written permission.

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER

This guide is for educational purposes only. It is not investment, tax or legal advice and is not a recommendation to buy or sell any security or to use any strategy. Chart patterns, levels and indicators describe what price has done; they do not predict what it will do. Trading stocks and options involves substantial risk, including the loss of your entire investment. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Charts and figures are drawn by Market Unclouded from Apple (AAPL) market data: daily bars from August 4 to November 18, 2026 (close), 5-minute bars for November 11, 2026, and options open interest for the November 20, 2026 expiration as of November 18. The data comes from a third party and can be delayed, incomplete or wrong. They are examples for learning, not signals. Consult a qualified financial professional about your own situation.

Watch This Guide as a Video

A narrated walkthrough of every chapter, on real charts: **youtu.be/Z9gNmf25yAA**

AAPL is the ticker for Apple Inc. common stock. Apple is used here only as an example of how to read a chart. It is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold the stock. Market Unclouded is not affiliated with or endorsed by Apple Inc. or any broker named.

Questions or feedback: **support@marketunclouded.com** · Follow **@MarketUnclouded** on X and **YouTube**.

Contents

Introduction		
Intro	How to use this guide	4
Part 1 · The Basics		
1	What a chart shows	5
2	Reading candlesticks	6
3	Choosing a timeframe	8
Part 2 · The Big Picture		
4	Trends and trendlines	9
5	Support and resistance	10
6	Volume	11
Part 3 · Indicators		
7	Moving averages	12
8	VWAP, RSI and MACD	13
9	Options levels on the chart	14
Part 4 · Putting It Together		
10	A five-step chart routine	15
11	Worked example: Apple (AAPL)	16
12	Common beginner mistakes	17
Appendices		
A	One-page cheat sheet	18
B	Glossary and next steps	19

Prefer to Watch?

The video version covers every chapter in about ten minutes: **youtu.be/Z9gNmf25yAA**

INTRODUCTION

How to Use This Guide

A chart is a record of every buyer and seller. Learn to read it.

A stock chart is the most common screen in investing, and the most misunderstood. It looks like noise until you know what each mark means. Once you do, a chart answers four questions in seconds: **where has the price been, which way is it going, where has it turned before, and how much conviction is behind the move?**

This guide teaches you to answer those four questions. It starts with the parts of a chart and the candlestick, moves on to trends, support and resistance and volume, then covers the indicators most charting platforms offer. It ends with a five-step routine and a full worked example on a real chart.

How the Guide Is Organized

1. **Part 1, The Basics.** What the axes, bars and numbers mean, how to read a candlestick, and how to pick a timeframe.
2. **Part 2, The Big Picture.** Trends, support and resistance, and volume. These three do most of the work.
3. **Part 3, Indicators.** Moving averages, VWAP, RSI, MACD and the options levels the Market Unclouded Charts tool draws.
4. **Part 4, Putting It Together.** A repeatable routine, a worked Apple (AAPL) example and the mistakes beginners make most.

Follow Along for Free

The charts in this guide are drawn from real Apple (AAPL) market data. You can open the same kinds of views on the free **Market Unclouded Charts** tool as you read. SPY, the fund that tracks the S&P 500, is free to chart with no account.

TRY IT ON THE FREE CHARTS TOOL

Open **marketunclouded.com/charts**. Use the **Indicators** menu to switch each study on and off, and pick a timeframe from the row of buttons above the chart. New visitors start with a clean chart.

A NOTE ON THE EXAMPLES

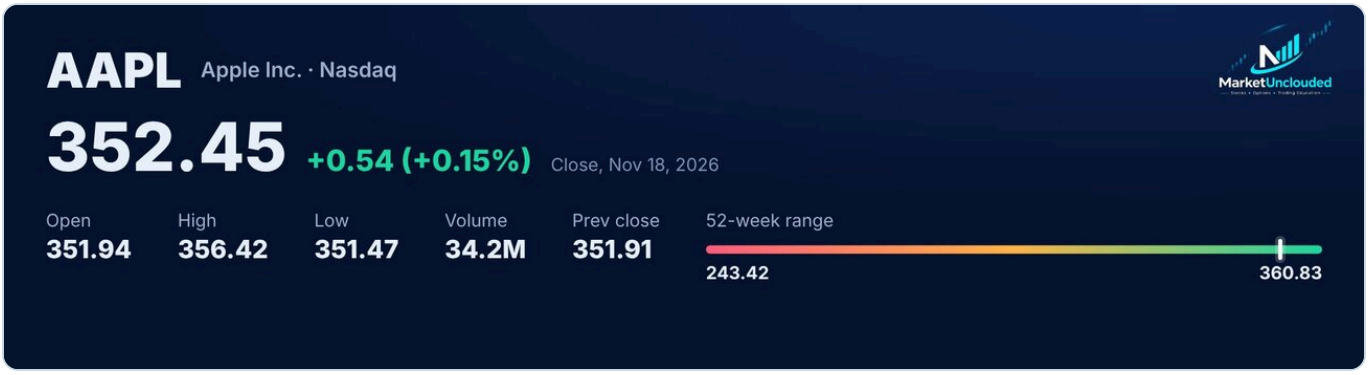
The examples use Apple (AAPL) at the close on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, after a rise from about 300 in August to a high of 360.83 in November. They show how to read a chart. They are not a forecast or a recommendation.

PART 1 · CHAPTER 1

What a Chart Shows

Price on one side, time along the bottom

Every price chart plots **price on the vertical axis** (the scale on the right) against **time on the horizontal axis** (the dates along the bottom). Each mark on the chart is one **bar**, and each bar covers one period of time: one day on a daily chart, five minutes on a 5-minute chart. Newer bars are on the right; the last bar is the current period.



The numbers at the top of a chart for AAPL at the Nov 18, 2026 close: ticker, last price, change from the previous close, the day's open, high, low and volume, and where the price sits in its 52-week range. On the Charts tool, tap **Show details** to see them.

The Numbers at the Top

Item	What it tells you
Last price	The most recent trade. AAPL closed at **352.45**.
Change	Dollars and percent versus yesterday's close: **+0.54 (+0.15%)** from a previous close of 351.91. Red means down on the day, green means up.
Open, high, low	Where the day started (351.94), its highest trade (356.42) and its lowest (351.47).
52-week range	The lowest and highest prices in the past year (243.42 to 360.83). The bar shows where today sits inside it: AAPL was near the top.
Volume	How many shares traded (34.2 million). Compare it with the average to judge interest.

Bars, Candles or a Line

A **line chart** connects each period's closing price. It is the cleanest view of the trend but hides what happened inside each period. **Bar** and **candlestick** charts show four prices for every period: the open, high, low and close (often written **OHLC**). Candlesticks are the most popular because the color and the size of the body make each period easy to read at a glance. The rest of this guide uses candles.

TRY IT ON THE FREE CHARTS TOOL

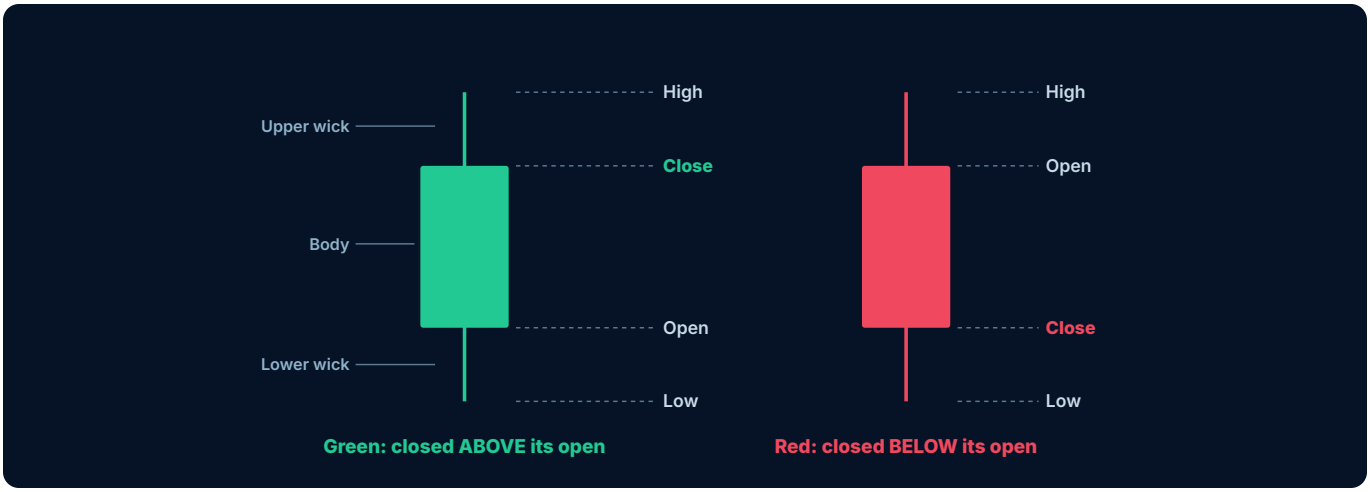
Hover over (or tap) any bar and the readout in the top-left corner of the chart shows that bar's **O, H, L and C** and its change. Switch between **Candles**, bars and a line from the chart-type menu.

PART 1 · CHAPTER 2

Reading Candlesticks

Four prices in one shape

A candlestick packs a whole period into one shape. The thick part is the **body**: it runs from the open to the close. The thin lines above and below are the **wicks** (also called shadows): they reach the high and the low of the period.



Illustration, not real data. On Market Unclouded, a candle is green when it closed above where it opened, and red when it closed below.

What the Shape Tells You

Shape	What happened during the period
Long green body	Buyers were in control from open to close. The price finished near its high.
Long red body	Sellers were in control. The price finished near its low.
Small body, wicks on both sides	Indecision. Buyers and sellers pushed the price around, and it ended near where it started.
Long lower wick	Sellers pushed the price down, then buyers pushed it back up. Lower prices were rejected.
Long upper wick	Buyers pushed the price up, then sellers pushed it back down. Higher prices were rejected.

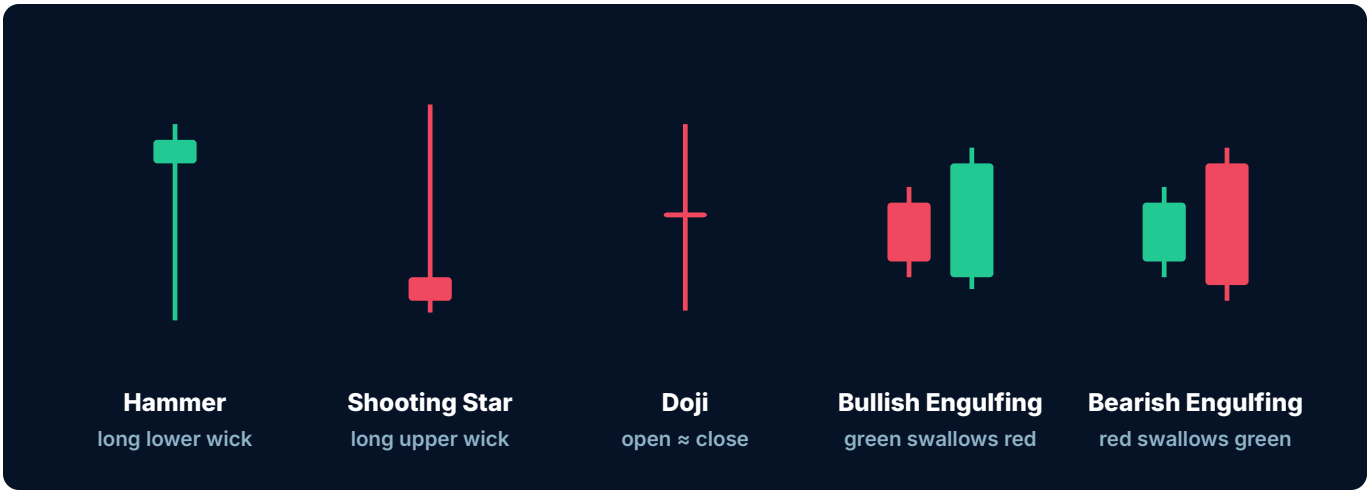
One candle is one period’s story. A single candle tells you very little about what comes next; a series of candles, read together with the trend and the levels around them, tells you much more.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The body runs from the open to the close; the wicks mark the high and the low.
- Green closed above its open; red closed below it.
- Long wicks show prices that were tried and rejected.
- Read candles in groups and in context, never one at a time.

Five Patterns Worth Knowing

Traders have named hundreds of candlestick patterns. You only need a handful to start. Each one describes a shift in control between buyers and sellers.



Illustration, not real data.

Pattern	What it shows	Where it matters most
Hammer	Small body near the top and a lower wick at least twice the body. Sellers drove the price down and buyers took it back.	After a decline, at a support level.
Shooting star	The mirror image: a long upper wick. Buyers drove the price up and sellers took it back.	After a rally, at a resistance level.
Doji	Open and close almost equal. Neither side won the period.	After a long run, as a sign the move is tiring.
Bullish engulfing	A green body that completely covers the red body before it. Buyers overwhelmed the prior selling.	After a decline, near support, on higher volume.
Bearish engulfing	A red body that completely covers the green body before it.	After a rally, near resistance, on higher volume.

CONTEXT BEATS PATTERNS

A pattern on its own is a weak clue, and many fail. It carries more weight when it forms at a support or resistance level, in the direction of the bigger trend, and on above-average volume. Treat patterns as a reason to look closer, not as a signal to act.

Want to go deeper on candles, multi-bar patterns and how they fit a full trading plan? The Stock Trading Masterclass covers them in detail, with a free sample.

PART 1 · CHAPTER 3

Choosing a Timeframe

Same stock, different stories

The **timeframe** is how much time each bar covers. The same stock can be in an uptrend on a daily chart and a downtrend on a 5-minute chart, and both are true. Pick the timeframe that matches how long you plan to hold.

Timeframe	Each bar is	Commonly used by
1m, 5m, 15m	1, 5 or 15 minutes	Day traders timing entries and exits within one session.
30m, 1H, 4H	30 minutes to 4 hours	Short-term traders holding for hours to a few days.
Day	One trading session	Swing traders holding days to weeks. The best place for a beginner to start.
Week, Month, Year	One week, month or year	Investors judging the long-term trend and the major levels.

Start Wide, Then Zoom In

Professionals usually read charts **top-down**. Start on the daily (or weekly) chart to find the main trend and the big support and resistance levels. Then move to a shorter timeframe to see the detail around today's price. A setup that agrees with the bigger timeframe is working with the current, not against it.



AAPL on a 5-minute chart, Nov 11, 2026. Each candle is five minutes of the regular session, 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM ET. The stock opened at 349.55 and closed at 355.79. The pink line is VWAP (Chapter 8).

Regular and Extended Hours

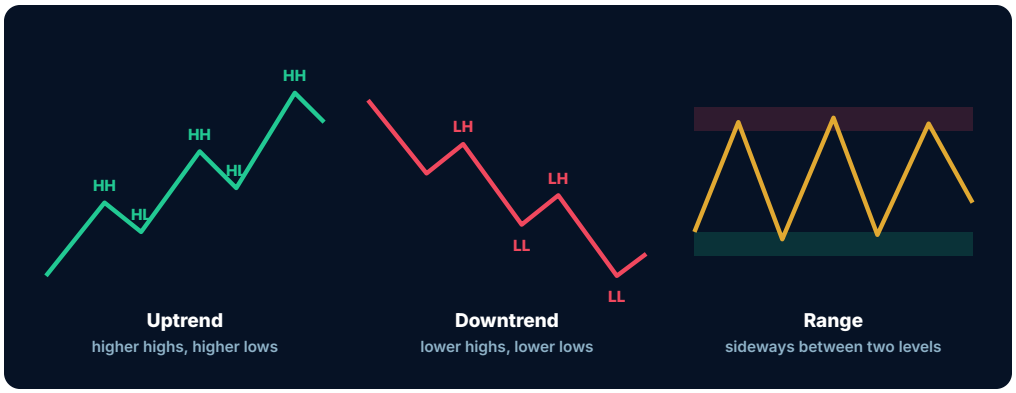
U.S. stocks trade in a **regular session from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM ET**. Many brokers also offer **pre-market** trading before the open and **after-hours** trading after the close. Volume is thinner outside regular hours and the gap between the bid and the ask is often wider, so moves there can be jumpy and less reliable.

PART 2 · CHAPTER 4

Trends and Trendlines

The trend is the first thing to read

Before anything else, ask one question: **is this chart going up, going down, or going sideways?** The answer frames everything else on the chart.



Illustration, not real data. HH = higher high, HL = higher low, LH = lower high, LL = lower low.

- **Uptrend:** a series of **higher highs and higher lows**. Each pullback stops above the last one.
- **Downtrend:** a series of **lower highs and lower lows**. Each bounce fails below the last one.
- **Range:** the price swings between a ceiling and a floor without making progress either way.

A trend is intact until that pattern breaks. In an uptrend, the first **lower low** is an early warning; in a downtrend, the first **higher high** is.

Trendlines

A **trendline** connects the swing lows of an uptrend, or the swing highs of a downtrend. Two points make a line; a third touch that holds makes it one worth watching. The more times the price has touched a line and turned, the more traders are likely to be watching it.



A rising trendline on AAPL's daily chart. It connects the swing lows of Aug 12 (300.57), Sep 9 (309.90) and Nov 3 (325.33): three touches. The Charts tool draws trendlines like this for you and counts the touches.

PART 2 · CHAPTER 5

Support and Resistance

Where the price has turned before

Support is a price area where buying has stopped declines before: a floor. **Resistance** is a price area where selling has stopped rallies before: a ceiling. They exist because traders remember prices. People who missed a move wait to buy at the old low; people who bought at the old high wait to sell when they get back to even.



Support and resistance zones on AAPL's daily chart. The red band is resistance above the price: **355.38–360.83**, tested five times in November. The green bands are support below: **338.30–341.03** (4 touches) and **325.33–330.70** (4 touches).

Rules of Thumb

- **Think in zones, not exact lines.** Price rarely turns at the same penny twice. Draw a band around the area.
- **More touches, more meaning.** A level that has turned the price several times is watched by more traders. Recent touches matter more than old ones.
- **Broken levels switch roles.** Old resistance that breaks often becomes new support, and broken support often becomes resistance.
- **Round numbers attract orders.** Prices like 350 or 400 often act as levels on their own.
- **Look for a close, not a poke.** A wick through a level that closes back inside is a test. A close beyond it, ideally on strong volume, is a breakout. False breakouts are common.

LEVELS ARE CONTEXT, NOT SIGNALS

Support and resistance tell you where a reaction is *more likely*, not that one will happen. In Market Unclouded's own backtests, the chart's zones showed no edge on their own. Use them to plan where you would be wrong, not as a reason to buy or sell.

PART 2 · CHAPTER 6

Volume

How much conviction is behind the move

Volume is the number of shares traded in each period. It appears as bars under the price chart, colored to match each candle. Price tells you *what* happened; volume tells you *how many people* took part.



AAPL daily chart with volume. The tallest bar, Nov 4 (89.6 million shares), came on a 5.3% jump the day after the price dipped into support near 325–331. Heavy volume on a bounce from support shows strong buying.

How to Read It

What you see	What it suggests
Price breaks a level on high volume	Many participants agree with the move. Breakouts with strong volume tend to be more convincing.
Price breaks a level on light volume	Little participation. The move is easier to reverse, so be skeptical.
A volume spike	Something changed: news, earnings, an index event or a large order. Find out what.
Rising price, falling volume	The rally may be running out of buyers.
Falling price, falling volume	The selling may be drying up.

Relative Volume

Raw volume is hard to judge on its own, because a stock trades more at the open and close than at lunch. **Relative volume (RVOL)** compares today's volume with the usual amount for the same time of day. An RVOL of 2× means twice the normal trading, a sign something is going on.

TRY IT ON THE FREE CHARTS TOOL

Under **Indicators → Panes**, switch on **Volume** and **Relative volume**. Hover any bar to see its volume in the readout.

PART 3 · CHAPTER 7

Moving Averages

Smoothing out the noise

A **moving average** is the average closing price over the last N bars, recalculated with each new bar and drawn as a line. It smooths out the day-to-day noise so the trend is easier to see. A **simple** moving average (SMA) weights every bar equally; an **exponential** moving average (EMA) gives more weight to recent bars, so it reacts faster. The Charts tool draws EMAs.



AAPL daily chart with the 9, 21, 50 and 200 EMAs. The price (352.45) sits above all four, and they are stacked in order and rising: a lined-up uptrend. The 200 (307.84) is far below, at the bottom edge.

Average	AAPL, Nov 18	What traders use it for
EMA 9	351.35	Very short-term momentum. Strong trends often ride along it.
EMA 21	347.79	The short-term trend; a common pullback area in a healthy trend.
EMA 50	340.29	The medium-term trend.
EMA 200	307.84	The long-term trend, watched by many investors. Price above a rising 200 is the classic definition of a long-term uptrend.

Reading Them

- **Slope:** a rising average means the trend is up; a falling one means it is down.
- **Price versus the average:** price above the line means buyers have the upper hand over that period.
- **Stacking:** when the short averages sit above the long ones (9 over 21 over 50 over 200), the trend is lined up. When they are tangled, the chart is mixed.
- **Crossovers:** the 50 crossing above the 200 is called a “golden cross”, and below it a “death cross”. They are widely reported but late.

All moving averages lag. They describe the trend that has already happened, which is why they confirm a trend rather than predict one.

PART 3 · CHAPTER 8

VWAP, RSI and MACD

Three popular indicators, briefly

VWAP: The Day's Average Price

VWAP (volume-weighted average price) is the average price paid for every share traded today, weighted by volume. It starts fresh each session and is used on intraday charts. Large funds use it to judge whether they bought well; day traders treat price above VWAP as buyers in control for the day, and below it as sellers in control. On Nov 11, AAPL opened at 349.55 and no 5-minute candle closed below its VWAP all day. It finished at 355.79, above its VWAP (354.11), so buyers were in control and the average buyer that day was holding a gain.

RSI: Is the Move Stretched?

The **Relative Strength Index** (RSI, usually over 14 bars) measures the speed of recent gains against recent losses on a scale of 0 to 100. Readings **above 70** are called overbought and **below 30** oversold. In a strong trend RSI can stay overbought or oversold for a long time, so treat it as a sign the move is stretched, not as a reason to bet against it. AAPL's daily RSI was **57**: healthy, and not stretched.

MACD: Is Momentum Turning?

MACD (12, 26, 9) is the gap between a 12-bar and a 26-bar EMA. A 9-bar average of that gap is the **signal line**, and the bars (the histogram) show the difference between the two. MACD above its signal line suggests momentum is improving; below suggests it is fading. AAPL's MACD (3.93) was above zero and above its signal (3.64): upside momentum.



AAPL daily chart with RSI (14) and MACD (12, 26, 9) panes. RSI sits between the 30 and 70 guide lines; MACD is above zero and just above its signal line.

FEWER INDICATORS, CLEARER CHARTS

Most indicators are built from the same price and volume, so they often say the same thing. Pick one or two you understand, and keep price, trend and levels at the center.

PART 3 · CHAPTER 9

Options Levels on the Chart

What the options market is watching

Most charting tools show only price and volume. The Market Unclouded Charts tool can also draw levels from the **options market**, because large options positions can influence how a stock trades around certain prices. New visitors see the call wall, the put wall and the gamma flip by default.



AAPL daily chart with options levels for the Nov 20, 2026 expiration (open interest as of Nov 18). The call wall at **365** sits above the price, the put wall at **330** below it, and the shaded box on the right is the expected move.

Level	What it is	AAPL, Nov 18
Call wall	The strike at or above the price with the most open call contracts. It often acts like a ceiling.	365
Put wall	The strike at or below the price with the most open put contracts. It often acts like a floor.	330
Gamma flip	The price where options dealers' hedging changes direction. Above it their trades tend to calm moves; below it they tend to make moves bigger.	Shown on the Charts tool
Expected move	How far the options market is pricing the stock to move, up or down, by an expiration. Roughly two times in three the price ends inside it.	±6.40 by Nov 20 (346.05 to 358.85)

On Nov 18, AAPL sat between its put wall (330) and its call wall (365), inside its expected move. The options market was pricing a move of about 1.8% either way by Friday.

CONTEXT ONLY

Options levels describe positioning; they don't predict the next move. Market Unclouded's backtests found no reliable edge from treating walls or max pain as support, resistance or a magnet. Use them as one more piece of context alongside the trend and the price levels.

Learn more in the free Options Terms Explained lessons and the glossary.

PART 4 · CHAPTER 10

A Five-Step Chart Routine

The same five questions, every chart

A routine keeps you from seeing what you want to see. Run the same five steps, in the same order, on every chart you open. With practice it takes about a minute.

1. **Start wide: find the trend.** Open the daily chart (and the weekly for a long-term view). Higher highs and higher lows, lower highs and lower lows, or a range? Is the price above or below a rising or falling 200-day average?
2. **Mark the nearest levels.** Find the closest support below the price and the closest resistance above it. How far away is each, in percent? How many times has each held?
3. **Check the moving averages.** Are the 9, 21, 50 and 200 stacked in one direction or tangled? Is the price above or below them?
4. **Check volume.** Did the most recent big move come on heavy or light volume? Is today's volume normal for this time of day?
5. **Zoom in and write it down.** Drop to a shorter timeframe to see today's action. Then write one sentence: what is the trend, where are the levels, and **at what price would your idea be wrong?**

ALWAYS KNOW WHERE YOU ARE WRONG

The most useful thing a chart gives you is a place to define risk. If an idea depends on a support level holding, a close below that level means the idea was wrong. Decide that price, and how much you are willing to lose, before you act, not after.

TRY IT ON THE FREE CHARTS TOOL

The Charts tool runs much of this routine for you. The **What the Chart Says** box lists the trend read, the nearest support and resistance with their touches and distance, the trendlines and the options levels, and the **Key Levels** box lays them out above and below the price. Open marketunclouded.com/charts.



The routine's answers for AAPL at the Nov 18, 2026 close, the kind of summary the **What the Chart Says** box gives you.

PART 4 · CHAPTER 11

Worked Example: Apple (AAPL)

The routine on a real chart

Here is the five-step routine applied to Apple (AAPL) at the close on Wednesday, November 18, 2026. AAPL closed at **352.45**, up 0.15% on the day.

Step	What the chart showed
1. Trend	A steady rise from the Aug 12 low (300.57) to a new 52-week high of 360.83 on Nov 13, about 20%. Higher highs, and pullbacks that held along a rising trendline (Aug 12, Sep 9, Nov 3). The read: **uptrend**.
2. Levels	Nearest resistance **355.38–360.83**, the November highs, starting about **0.8% above**. Nearest support **338.30–341.03** (4 touches), about **3.2% below**, with deeper support at 325.33–330.70.
3. Averages	Price above the EMA 9 (351.35), 21 (347.79), 50 (340.29) and 200 (307.84). All four are rising and stacked in order. The 50 sits right at the first support zone.
4. Volume and momentum	The biggest volume (89.6 million shares) came on the Nov 4 jump off support, a sign of strong buying. RSI 57 (healthy, not stretched). MACD above zero and above its signal line.
5. Zoom in	On Nov 18 the stock reached 356.42, into the bottom of the resistance zone, then closed at 352.45, back below it. The price is pausing under resistance.

The One-Sentence Summary

> **"AAPL is in an uptrend, with all four averages stacked and rising, pausing just under resistance at 355–361. Support is at 338–341, near the 50-day average. A daily close below 338 would say a deeper pullback is under way."**

Notice what the summary does *not* say: it doesn't predict whether AAPL will break out or pull back. It describes where the price is, where it has turned before, and which price would change the picture. That is what a chart is good for.



The Key Levels Box

List every level above and below the price, highest first, with how far away each one is in percent. The Charts tool's **Key Levels** box does this for you; tap a row to show or hide it on the chart.

Here resistance sits less than 1% above the price, while the nearest support and the 50-day average are more than 3% below.

Key levels for AAPL at the Nov 18, 2026 close.

PART 4 · CHAPTER 12

Common Beginner Mistakes

And how to avoid them

Mistake	Why it hurts, and the fix
Too many indicators	Five indicators that all come from the same price data don't give five opinions. Keep the chart clean enough to see the price.
Ignoring the bigger timeframe	A breakout on the 5-minute chart that runs straight into daily resistance often fails. Start wide.
Treating levels as exact lines	Support is a zone. Expecting a turn at the exact penny leads to stops placed where everyone else's are.
Acting on a single candle	One hammer or one big green bar is a clue, not a confirmation. Wait for context and follow-through.
Forgetting volume	A move nobody took part in is easy to reverse. Check volume before trusting a breakout.
Seeing patterns everywhere	Charts are easy to read in hindsight. Write your read down before you know the outcome, then review it honestly.
No plan for being wrong	Every chart idea needs a price that proves it wrong. Decide it, and your position size, before you act.
Trading thin extended hours	Pre-market and after-hours moves happen on light volume with wide spreads. Treat them with extra caution.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Read the trend first, on the bigger timeframe.
- Mark support and resistance as zones and note how far away they are.
- Use volume to judge conviction and moving averages to confirm the trend.
- Keep indicators few and simple.
- Write down the price where you would be wrong before you act.

Practice Makes This Easy

Chart reading is a skill, and skills come from repetition. Pick five stocks or ETFs you know, and run the five-step routine on each of them every day for two weeks. Write one sentence per chart. You will be surprised how quickly the marks start to read like words.

TRY IT ON THE FREE CHARTS TOOL

Open **marketunclouded.com/charts** and start with SPY, which is free with no account. Add your own tickers to the watchlist beside the chart to practice on the stocks you follow.

APPENDIX A

One-Page Cheat Sheet

Print it and keep it next to your screen

Candles

- Body = open to close; wicks = high and low.
- Green closed above its open, red below.
- Long wicks = rejected prices.
- Small body = indecision.

Timeframes

- Match the timeframe to how long you hold.
- Start on the daily or weekly, then zoom in.
- Regular session 9:30 AM–4:00 PM ET; extended hours are thinner.

Trend

- Up = higher highs and higher lows.
- Down = lower highs and lower lows.
- Range = a floor and a ceiling.
- Trendlines: 3+ touches are worth watching.

Support and Resistance

- Zones, not lines.
- More touches and more recent = more watched.
- Broken levels often switch roles.
- Look for a close beyond the zone, with volume.

Volume

- High volume = conviction; light = easy to reverse.
- Spikes mean news or a big order: find out why.
- RVOL compares with the normal for this time of day.

Moving Averages

- 9 and 21: short term. 50: medium. 200: long term.
- Rising slope = uptrend; price above = buyers ahead.
- Stacked = trend aligned; tangled = mixed.
- All averages lag.

VWAP, RSI, MACD

- VWAP: the day's average price; intraday only.
- RSI over 70 stretched up, under 30 stretched down.
- MACD above its signal = momentum improving.

Options Levels

- Call wall above, put wall below.
- Below the gamma flip, moves tend to be bigger.
- Expected move: the range options are pricing.
- Context only, never a signal.

The Five-Step Routine

1 Trend on the daily · **2** Nearest support and resistance · **3** Moving averages · **4** Volume · **5** Zoom in and write down where you would be wrong.

APPENDIX B

Glossary and Next Steps

Linked terms open the full definition on marketunclouded.com

Bar
One period on a chart: one day on a daily chart, five minutes on a 5-minute chart.

Candlestick
A bar drawn as a body (open to close) and wicks (high and low), colored by direction.

OHLC
Open, high, low and close: the four prices every bar records.

Trend
The general direction of price: up, down or sideways.

Trendline
A line connecting swing lows in an uptrend or swing highs in a downtrend.

Support and resistance
Price areas where buyers (support) or sellers (resistance) have turned the price before.

Volume
Shares traded in a period. Relative volume compares it with normal for that time of day.

Moving average
The average close over the last N bars, drawn as a line. EMAs weight recent bars more.

VWAP
Volume-weighted average price for the session.

RSI
Relative Strength Index, a 0 to 100 gauge of how stretched a move is.

MACD
Moving Average Convergence Divergence, a momentum indicator built from two EMAs.

Gap
A jump between one bar's close and the next bar's open, often after news.

Extended hours
Pre-market and after-hours trading outside the 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM ET session.

Keep Learning, Free

- Unclouded Charts: practice on SPY, free.
- Glossary: every term on the site.
- Options Terms Explained: call and put walls, expected move, gamma and more.
- Options Chain: see the strikes behind the levels.
- Long-Term Investing guide: the investor's playbook.
- All free guides.

Go Deeper

The Stock Trading Masterclass covers candlesticks, VWAP, moving averages, pullbacks and risk management in a full trading handbook.

Sources and Notes

Charts and figures: drawn by Market Unclouded from Apple (AAPL) market data via Massive (daily bars Aug 4 to Nov 18, 2026; 5-minute bars Nov 11, 2026; options open interest for the Nov 20, 2026 expiration as of Nov 18). RSI: J. Welles Wilder Jr., *New Concepts in Technical Trading Systems* (1978). MACD: developed by Gerald Appel in the late 1970s. Candlestick charting was introduced to Western traders by Steve Nison, *Japanese Candlestick Charting Techniques* (1991). Regular U.S. equity session hours: NYSE and Nasdaq, 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM ET.



Watch the Video Guide
See every chapter explained on real charts: youtu.be/Z9gNmf25yAA

FREE · NO ACCOUNT NEEDED

Read the Chart. Then Read It Live.

Practice everything in this guide on the free Market Unclouded Charts tool, with support and resistance, trendlines, moving averages and options levels drawn for you.



Open the Free Charts Tool

▶ Watch the Video

MarketUnclouded

Stocks • Options • Trading Education

Educational only, not financial advice.

marketunclouded.com