

CANDLESTICK PATTERNS MASTER GUIDE

How to Identify Buy & Sell Signals Using Price Action

Illustrative candlestick structure



Beginner → Intermediate Trading Guide

Pattern recognition • Confirmation • Entry • Stop Loss • Target • Risk/Reward

Educational purpose only — not financial advice.

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Use this guide to study **pattern + location + confirmation + risk management**. No pattern is presented as a guaranteed signal.

1. UNDERSTANDING CANDLESTICKS

A candlestick represents four prices for a selected timeframe: Open, High, Low and Close. The body represents the distance between open and close; the upper and lower wicks show the extremes reached during the period.

Illustrative candlestick structure



Bullish candle: close above open. **Bearish candle:** close below open. Long wicks can show rejection; large bodies can show stronger directional movement.

2. HOW TO READ A CANDLE

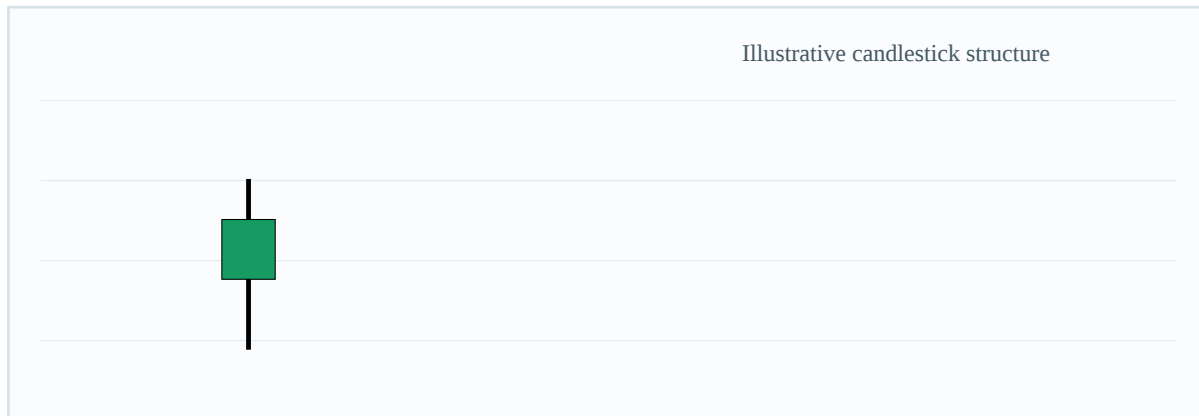


Study five things: body size, upper wick, lower wick, candle range and location. A small body can indicate hesitation. A long lower wick can show rejection of lower prices. A long upper wick can show rejection of higher prices.

Important: the same candle can mean different things depending on trend and support/resistance.

HAMMER

Classification: Bullish reversal candidate



FORMATION

A small body near the top with a relatively long lower wick. More meaningful after a decline or near support.

WHERE IT WORKS BEST

The pattern should be interpreted in relation to the preceding trend and nearby support/resistance.

TRADER PSYCHOLOGY

The candle sequence describes a shift, rejection, hesitation or continuation in buying and selling pressure. It is a probability-based observation, not certainty.

CONFIRMATION

Wait for confirmation above the hammer high. Prefer volume and broader context to support the move.

ENTRY • STOP LOSS • TARGET

Entry above confirmation high; SL below hammer low; target next resistance or predefined R:R.

WHEN NOT TO TRADE

Do not buy every hammer. Avoid unconfirmed or poorly located patterns.

COMMON MISTAKE

Entering immediately after pattern recognition without checking location, confirmation, liquidity, volatility and risk/reward.

SHOOTING STAR

Classification: Bearish reversal candidate



FORMATION

A small body near the lower part with a long upper wick. More meaningful after a rally or near resistance.

WHERE IT WORKS BEST

The pattern should be interpreted in relation to the preceding trend and nearby support/resistance.

TRADER PSYCHOLOGY

The candle sequence describes a shift, rejection, hesitation or continuation in buying and selling pressure. It is a probability-based observation, not certainty.

CONFIRMATION

Wait for confirmation below the shooting-star low. Volume can strengthen the setup.

ENTRY • STOP LOSS • TARGET

Entry below confirmation low; SL above pattern high; target next support or predefined R:R.

WHEN NOT TO TRADE

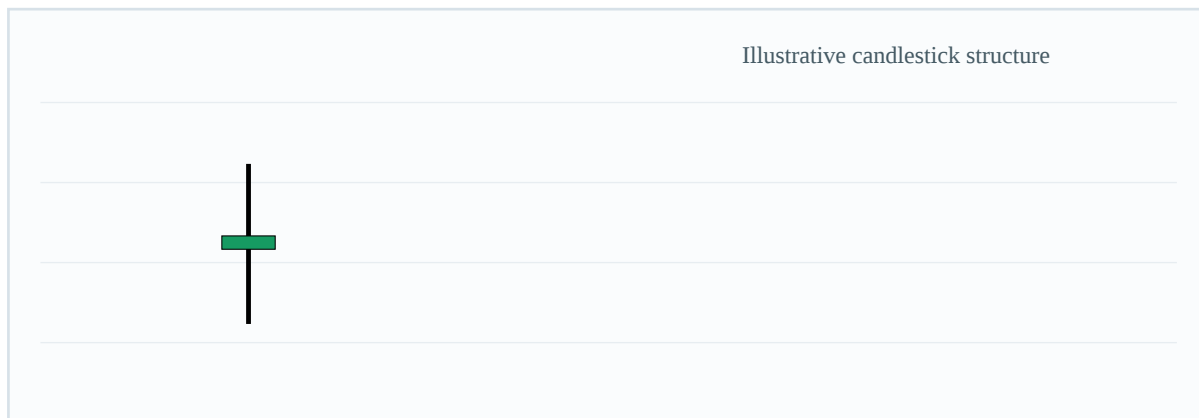
Do not sell solely because of a long upper wick.

COMMON MISTAKE

Entering immediately after pattern recognition without checking location, confirmation, liquidity, volatility and risk/reward.

DOJI

Classification: Indecision



FORMATION

Open and close are relatively close. It signals uncertainty, not a complete trade.

WHERE IT WORKS BEST

The pattern should be interpreted in relation to the preceding trend and nearby support/resistance.

TRADER PSYCHOLOGY

The candle sequence describes a shift, rejection, hesitation or continuation in buying and selling pressure. It is a probability-based observation, not certainty.

CONFIRMATION

Use surrounding candles, trend, support/resistance and volume.

ENTRY • STOP LOSS • TARGET

Entry/SL/target must come from the broader setup, not the Doji alone.

WHEN NOT TO TRADE

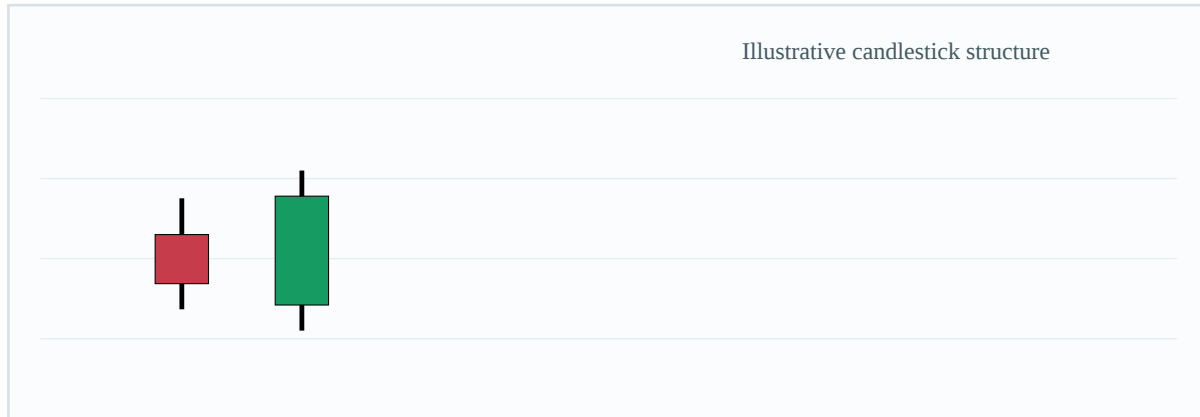
Avoid assigning a fixed bullish or bearish meaning.

COMMON MISTAKE

Entering immediately after pattern recognition without checking location, confirmation, liquidity, volatility and risk/reward.

BULLISH ENGULFING

Classification: Bullish reversal candidate



FORMATION

A bearish candle is followed by a larger bullish body that engulfs the prior body.

WHERE IT WORKS BEST

The pattern should be interpreted in relation to the preceding trend and nearby support/resistance.

TRADER PSYCHOLOGY

The candle sequence describes a shift, rejection, hesitation or continuation in buying and selling pressure. It is a probability-based observation, not certainty.

CONFIRMATION

Look for follow-through above the pattern high and suitable support.

ENTRY • STOP LOSS • TARGET

Entry above confirmation; SL below pattern low; target next resistance.

WHEN NOT TO TRADE

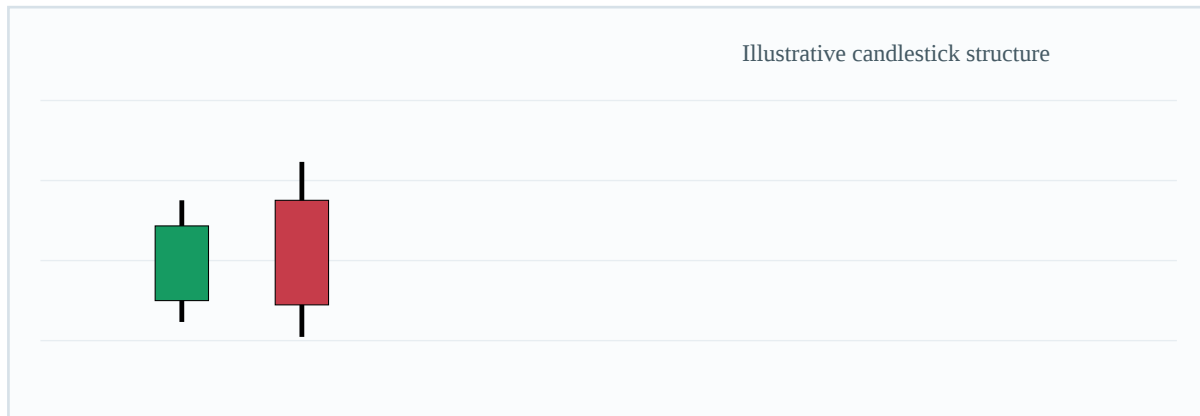
Less useful in random sideways price action.

COMMON MISTAKE

Entering immediately after pattern recognition without checking location, confirmation, liquidity, volatility and risk/reward.

BEARISH ENGULFING

Classification: Bearish reversal candidate



FORMATION

A bullish candle is followed by a larger bearish body that engulfs the prior body.

WHERE IT WORKS BEST

The pattern should be interpreted in relation to the preceding trend and nearby support/resistance.

TRADER PSYCHOLOGY

The candle sequence describes a shift, rejection, hesitation or continuation in buying and selling pressure. It is a probability-based observation, not certainty.

CONFIRMATION

Look for follow-through below the pattern low and suitable resistance.

ENTRY • STOP LOSS • TARGET

Entry below confirmation; SL above pattern high; target next support.

WHEN NOT TO TRADE

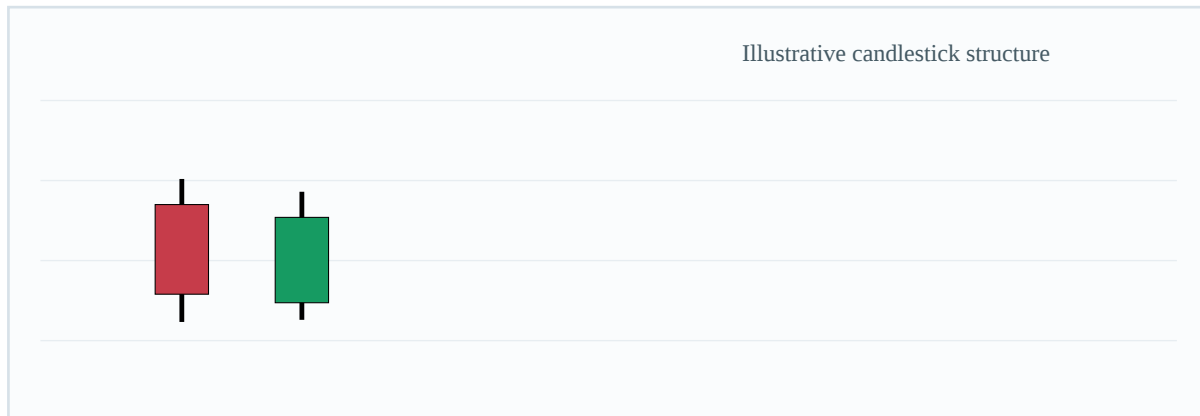
Avoid using against a strong continuation without confirmation.

COMMON MISTAKE

Entering immediately after pattern recognition without checking location, confirmation, liquidity, volatility and risk/reward.

PIERCING LINE

Classification: Bullish reversal candidate



FORMATION

A bearish candle is followed by a bullish candle that recovers substantially into the prior body.

WHERE IT WORKS BEST

The pattern should be interpreted in relation to the preceding trend and nearby support/resistance.

TRADER PSYCHOLOGY

The candle sequence describes a shift, rejection, hesitation or continuation in buying and selling pressure. It is a probability-based observation, not certainty.

CONFIRMATION

Look for follow-through above the pattern high near support.

ENTRY • STOP LOSS • TARGET

Entry above confirmation; SL below pattern low; target next resistance.

WHEN NOT TO TRADE

Weak without a meaningful prior decline or support.

COMMON MISTAKE

Entering immediately after pattern recognition without checking location, confirmation, liquidity, volatility and risk/reward.

DARK CLOUD COVER

Classification: Bearish reversal candidate



FORMATION

A bullish candle is followed by a bearish candle that moves substantially back into the prior body.

WHERE IT WORKS BEST

The pattern should be interpreted in relation to the preceding trend and nearby support/resistance.

TRADER PSYCHOLOGY

The candle sequence describes a shift, rejection, hesitation or continuation in buying and selling pressure. It is a probability-based observation, not certainty.

CONFIRMATION

Look for breakdown below the pattern low near resistance.

ENTRY • STOP LOSS • TARGET

Entry below confirmation; SL above pattern high; target next support.

WHEN NOT TO TRADE

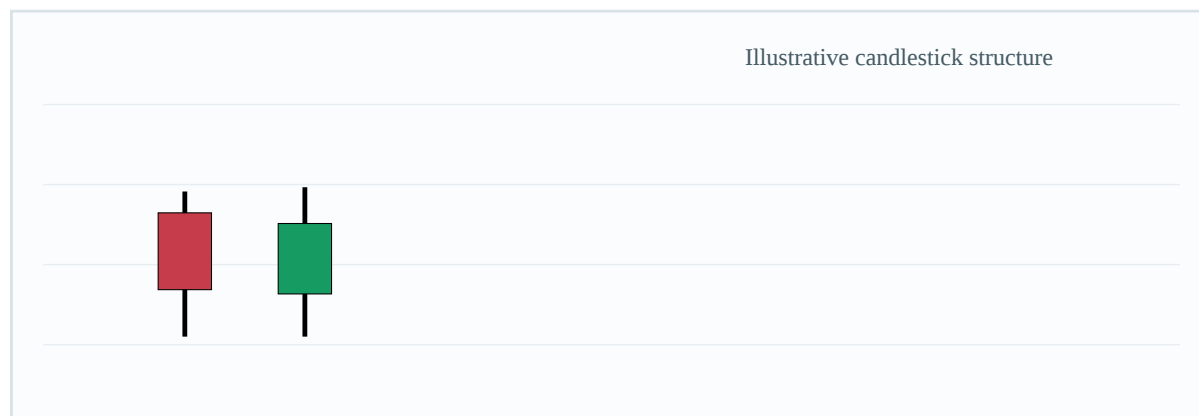
Do not treat it as sufficient during strong bullish continuation.

COMMON MISTAKE

Entering immediately after pattern recognition without checking location, confirmation, liquidity, volatility and risk/reward.

TWEEZER BOTTOM

Classification: Bullish reversal candidate



FORMATION

Two candles test a similar low area, suggesting rejection.

WHERE IT WORKS BEST

The pattern should be interpreted in relation to the preceding trend and nearby support/resistance.

TRADER PSYCHOLOGY

The candle sequence describes a shift, rejection, hesitation or continuation in buying and selling pressure. It is a probability-based observation, not certainty.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation above the pattern high improves the setup.

ENTRY • STOP LOSS • TARGET

Entry above confirmation; SL below common low; target next resistance.

WHEN NOT TO TRADE

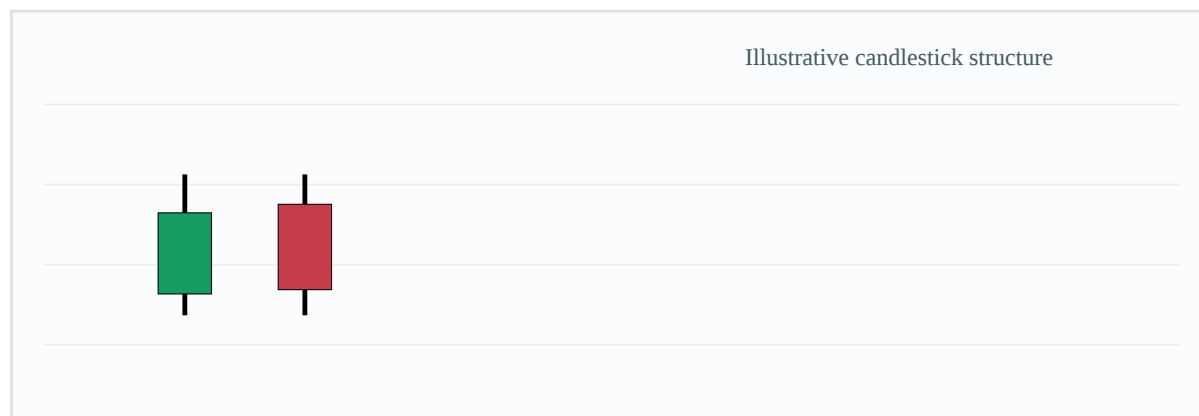
Equal lows alone are not a guarantee.

COMMON MISTAKE

Entering immediately after pattern recognition without checking location, confirmation, liquidity, volatility and risk/reward.

TWEEZER TOP

Classification: Bearish reversal candidate



FORMATION

Two candles test a similar high area, suggesting rejection.

WHERE IT WORKS BEST

The pattern should be interpreted in relation to the preceding trend and nearby support/resistance.

TRADER PSYCHOLOGY

The candle sequence describes a shift, rejection, hesitation or continuation in buying and selling pressure. It is a probability-based observation, not certainty.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation below the pattern low improves the setup.

ENTRY • STOP LOSS • TARGET

Entry below confirmation; SL above common high; target next support.

WHEN NOT TO TRADE

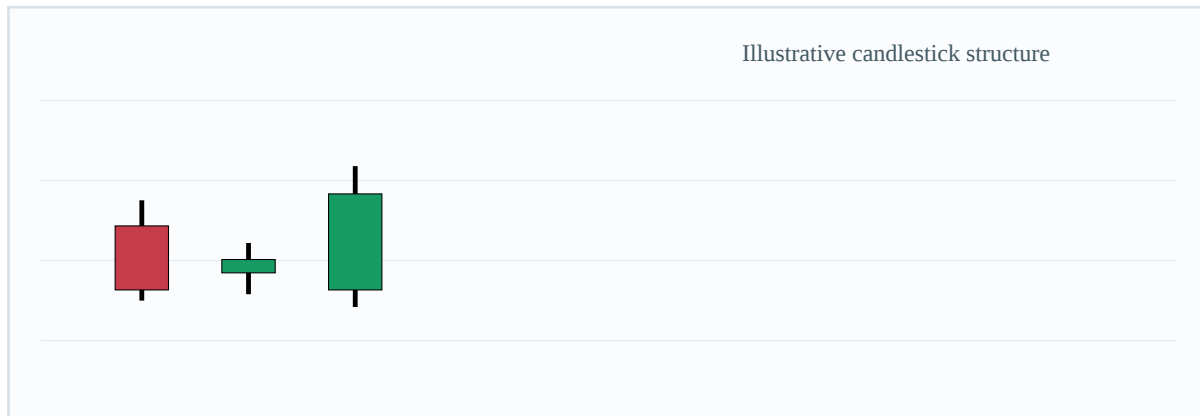
Equal highs alone are not a guarantee.

COMMON MISTAKE

Entering immediately after pattern recognition without checking location, confirmation, liquidity, volatility and risk/reward.

MORNING STAR

Classification: Bullish reversal candidate



FORMATION

A three-candle structure showing selling pressure, hesitation, then stronger bullish recovery.

WHERE IT WORKS BEST

The pattern should be interpreted in relation to the preceding trend and nearby support/resistance.

TRADER PSYCHOLOGY

The candle sequence describes a shift, rejection, hesitation or continuation in buying and selling pressure. It is a probability-based observation, not certainty.

CONFIRMATION

Look for confirmation above the third candle high near support.

ENTRY • STOP LOSS • TARGET

Entry above confirmation; SL below pattern low; target next resistance.

WHEN NOT TO TRADE

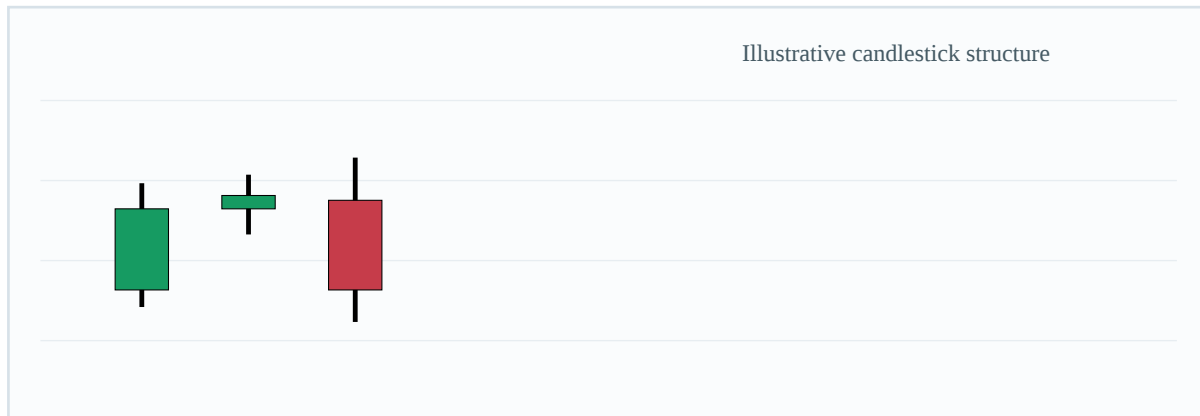
Avoid weak setups without support or follow-through.

COMMON MISTAKE

Entering immediately after pattern recognition without checking location, confirmation, liquidity, volatility and risk/reward.

EVENING STAR

Classification: Bearish reversal candidate



FORMATION

A three-candle structure showing buying pressure, hesitation, then stronger bearish recovery.

WHERE IT WORKS BEST

The pattern should be interpreted in relation to the preceding trend and nearby support/resistance.

TRADER PSYCHOLOGY

The candle sequence describes a shift, rejection, hesitation or continuation in buying and selling pressure. It is a probability-based observation, not certainty.

CONFIRMATION

Look for confirmation below the third candle low near resistance.

ENTRY • STOP LOSS • TARGET

Entry below confirmation; SL above pattern high; target next support.

WHEN NOT TO TRADE

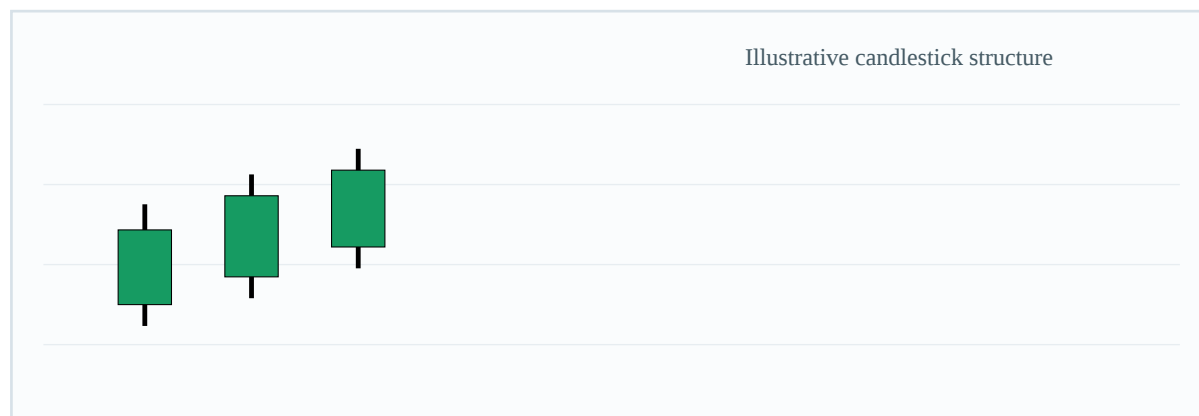
The middle candle alone is not a signal.

COMMON MISTAKE

Entering immediately after pattern recognition without checking location, confirmation, liquidity, volatility and risk/reward.

THREE WHITE SOLDIERS

Classification: Bullish continuation/reversal candidate



FORMATION

Three consecutive strong bullish candles with generally constructive closes.

WHERE IT WORKS BEST

The pattern should be interpreted in relation to the preceding trend and nearby support/resistance.

TRADER PSYCHOLOGY

The candle sequence describes a shift, rejection, hesitation or continuation in buying and selling pressure. It is a probability-based observation, not certainty.

CONFIRMATION

Use with trend/location and avoid chasing an already extended move.

ENTRY • STOP LOSS • TARGET

Entry on confirmation/follow-through; SL below relevant swing; target next resistance.

WHEN NOT TO TRADE

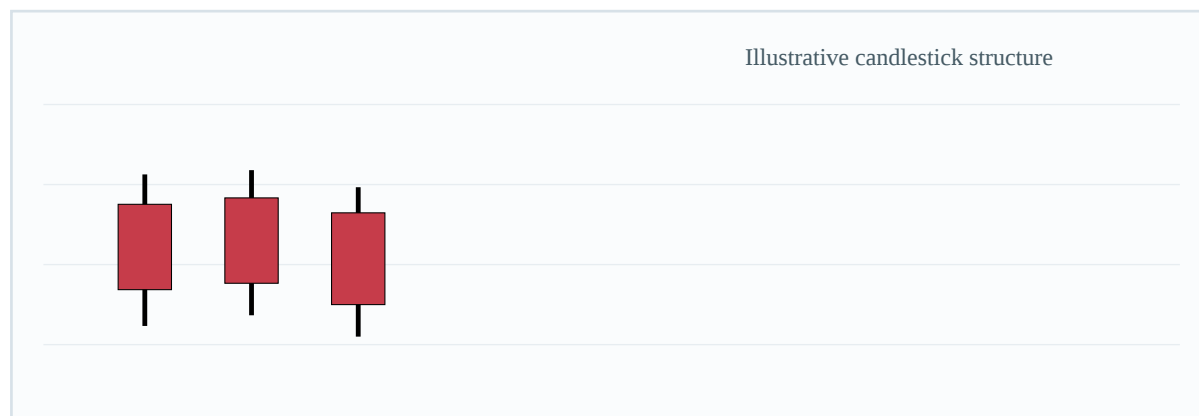
Do not chase late-stage extension.

COMMON MISTAKE

Entering immediately after pattern recognition without checking location, confirmation, liquidity, volatility and risk/reward.

THREE BLACK CROWS

Classification: Bearish continuation/reversal candidate



FORMATION

Three consecutive strong bearish candles with generally weakening closes.

WHERE IT WORKS BEST

The pattern should be interpreted in relation to the preceding trend and nearby support/resistance.

TRADER PSYCHOLOGY

The candle sequence describes a shift, rejection, hesitation or continuation in buying and selling pressure. It is a probability-based observation, not certainty.

CONFIRMATION

Use with trend/location and confirmation.

ENTRY • STOP LOSS • TARGET

Entry on confirmation/follow-through; SL above relevant swing; target next support.

WHEN NOT TO TRADE

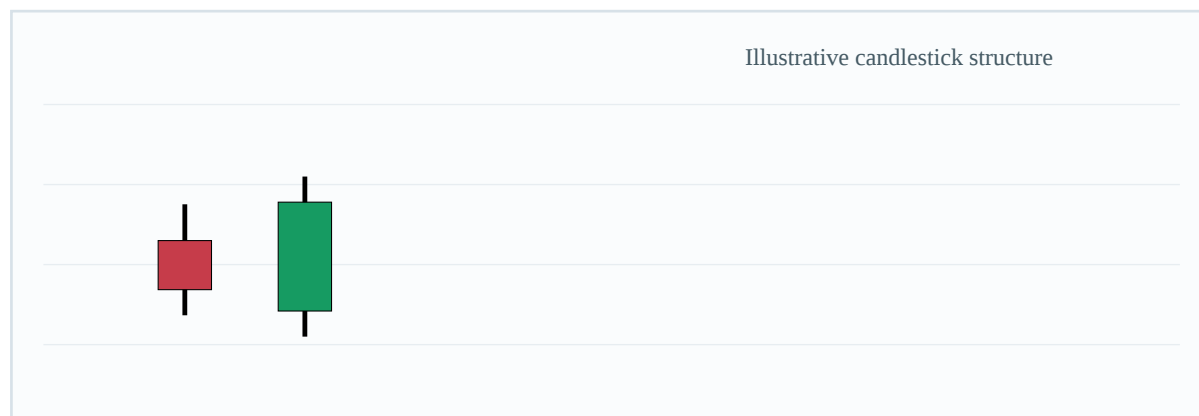
Do not chase an already extended decline.

COMMON MISTAKE

Entering immediately after pattern recognition without checking location, confirmation, liquidity, volatility and risk/reward.

THREE INSIDE UP

Classification: Bullish reversal/continuation candidate



FORMATION

A bearish candle is followed by an inside bullish structure and confirming bullish candle.

WHERE IT WORKS BEST

The pattern should be interpreted in relation to the preceding trend and nearby support/resistance.

TRADER PSYCHOLOGY

The candle sequence describes a shift, rejection, hesitation or continuation in buying and selling pressure. It is a probability-based observation, not certainty.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation above the third candle high.

ENTRY • STOP LOSS • TARGET

Entry above confirmation; SL below pattern low; target next resistance.

WHEN NOT TO TRADE

Context remains essential.

COMMON MISTAKE

Entering immediately after pattern recognition without checking location, confirmation, liquidity, volatility and risk/reward.

THREE INSIDE DOWN

Classification: Bearish reversal/continuation candidate



FORMATION

A bullish candle is followed by an inside bearish structure and confirming bearish candle.

WHERE IT WORKS BEST

The pattern should be interpreted in relation to the preceding trend and nearby support/resistance.

TRADER PSYCHOLOGY

The candle sequence describes a shift, rejection, hesitation or continuation in buying and selling pressure. It is a probability-based observation, not certainty.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation below the third candle low.

ENTRY • STOP LOSS • TARGET

Entry below confirmation; SL above pattern high; target next support.

WHEN NOT TO TRADE

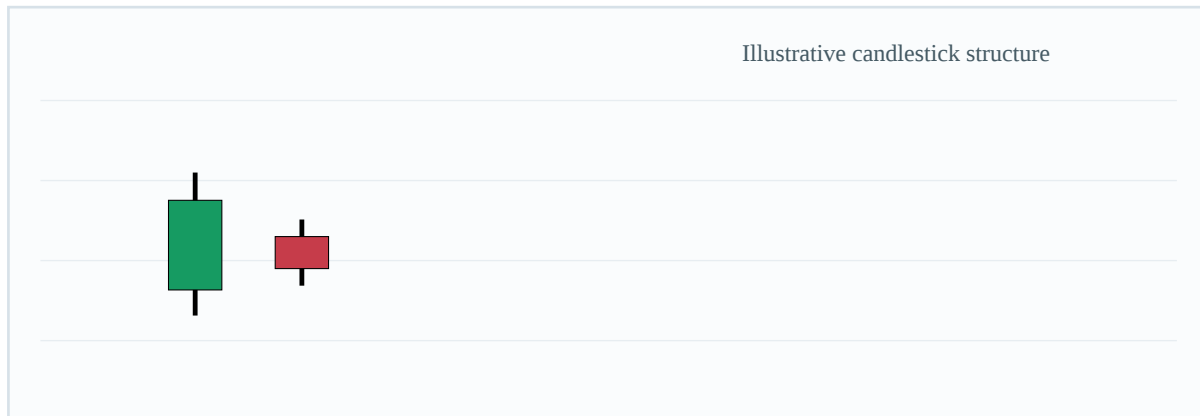
Context remains essential.

COMMON MISTAKE

Entering immediately after pattern recognition without checking location, confirmation, liquidity, volatility and risk/reward.

RISING THREE METHODS

Classification: Bullish continuation



FORMATION

Strong bullish candle, short consolidation, then continuation.

WHERE IT WORKS BEST

The pattern should be interpreted in relation to the preceding trend and nearby support/resistance.

TRADER PSYCHOLOGY

The candle sequence describes a shift, rejection, hesitation or continuation in buying and selling pressure. It is a probability-based observation, not certainty.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation above consolidation/high.

ENTRY • STOP LOSS • TARGET

Entry on breakout; SL below consolidation; target next resistance/R:R.

WHEN NOT TO TRADE

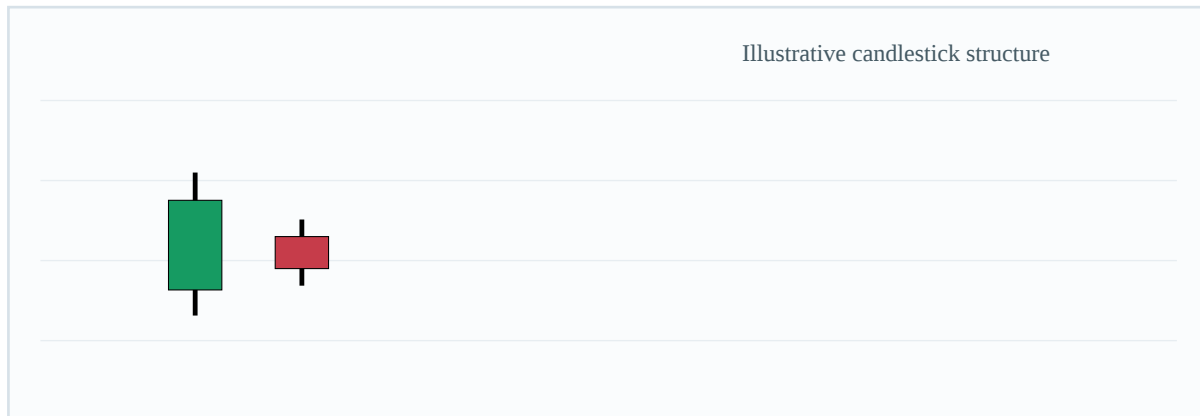
Avoid if consolidation breaks trend structure.

COMMON MISTAKE

Entering immediately after pattern recognition without checking location, confirmation, liquidity, volatility and risk/reward.

FALLING THREE METHODS

Classification: Bearish continuation



FORMATION

Strong bearish candle, short consolidation, then continuation.

WHERE IT WORKS BEST

The pattern should be interpreted in relation to the preceding trend and nearby support/resistance.

TRADER PSYCHOLOGY

The candle sequence describes a shift, rejection, hesitation or continuation in buying and selling pressure. It is a probability-based observation, not certainty.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation below consolidation/low.

ENTRY • STOP LOSS • TARGET

Entry on breakdown; SL above consolidation; target next support/R:R.

WHEN NOT TO TRADE

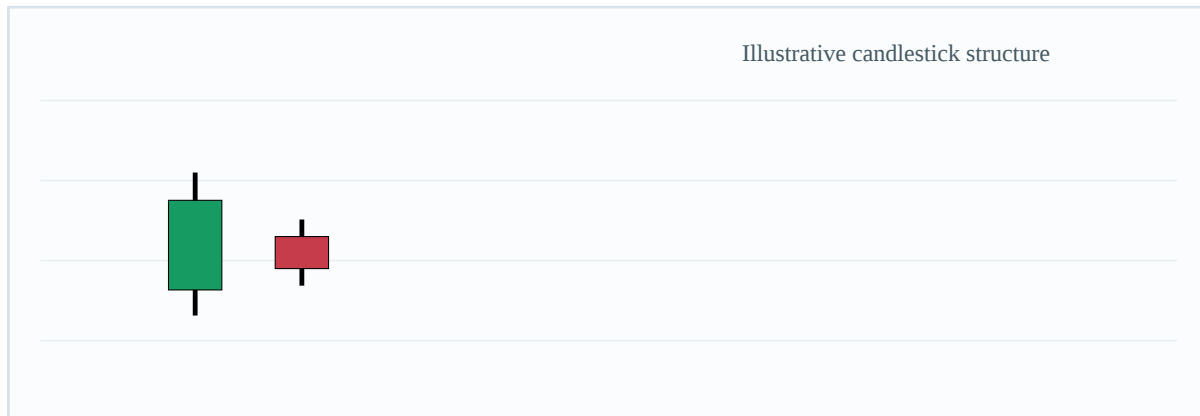
Avoid if bearish structure is invalidated.

COMMON MISTAKE

Entering immediately after pattern recognition without checking location, confirmation, liquidity, volatility and risk/reward.

INSIDE BAR

Classification: Compression / breakout setup



FORMATION

A candle's range is contained within the prior candle's range.

WHERE IT WORKS BEST

The pattern should be interpreted in relation to the preceding trend and nearby support/resistance.

TRADER PSYCHOLOGY

The candle sequence describes a shift, rejection, hesitation or continuation in buying and selling pressure. It is a probability-based observation, not certainty.

CONFIRMATION

Use a predefined breakout direction and confirmation.

ENTRY • STOP LOSS • TARGET

Entry at breakout; SL opposite side; target next structure/R:R.

WHEN NOT TO TRADE

False breakouts are common in choppy markets.

COMMON MISTAKE

Entering immediately after pattern recognition without checking location, confirmation, liquidity, volatility and risk/reward.

BUY SIGNAL FRAMEWORK

A structured bullish setup can use the following checklist:

- Bullish candlestick pattern
- Pattern near support
- Downtrend exhaustion OR bullish continuation context
- Confirmation candle closes/breaks bullishly
- Volume supports the move
- Risk/Reward is acceptable
- No major resistance immediately above
- Stop Loss is clearly defined

Candlestick → Trend → Support → Pattern → Confirmation → Volume → Entry → Stop Loss → Target

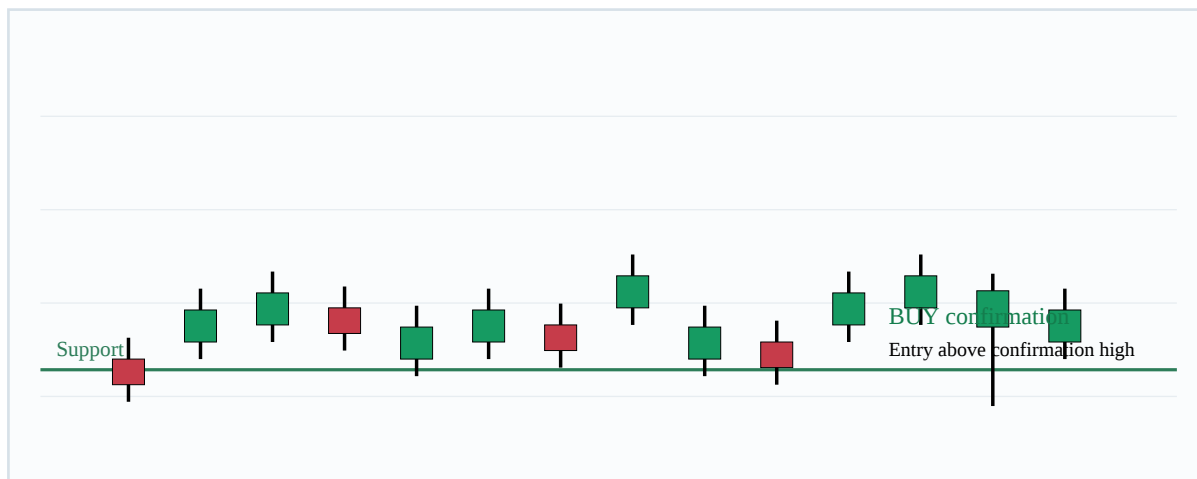
SELL SIGNAL FRAMEWORK

A structured bearish setup can use the following checklist:

- Bearish candlestick pattern
- Pattern near resistance
- Uptrend exhaustion OR bearish continuation context
- Confirmation candle closes/breaks bearishly
- Volume supports the move
- Risk/Reward is acceptable
- No major support immediately below
- Stop Loss is clearly defined

Candlestick → Trend → Resistance → Pattern → Confirmation → Volume → Entry → Stop Loss → Target

SUPPORT + RESISTANCE + CANDLESTICKS



A hammer in the middle of a sideways range is not equivalent to a hammer at major support after a prolonged decline. Likewise, a shooting star at major resistance after a strong rally is different from one appearing randomly.

TREND FILTER

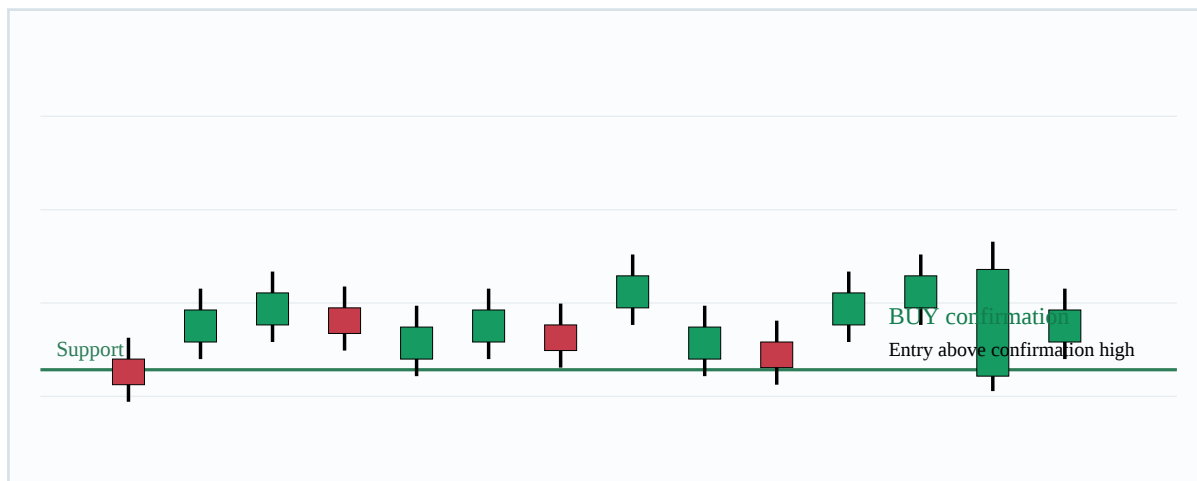
Uptrend: Higher High + Higher Low.

Downtrend: Lower High + Lower Low.

Sideways: price oscillates without clear directional structure.

Bullish reversal patterns are generally more meaningful when aligned with an appropriate reversal zone. Bearish reversal patterns are more meaningful near suitable resistance. Continuation patterns belong inside established directional structures.

VOLUME CONFIRMATION



Compare volume with recent activity. Breakouts and reversals with stronger participation may provide additional confirmation, but volume is not a guarantee and should be interpreted for the specific instrument and timeframe.

EMA CONFIRMATION

Common filters: EMA 9, EMA 21, EMA 50, EMA 200.

Illustrative BUY framework: Price above EMA 21 + bullish pattern + support + confirmation breakout + volume confirmation.

Illustrative SELL framework: Price below EMA 21 + bearish pattern + resistance + confirmation breakdown + volume confirmation.

EMA confirmation is an additional filter, not a guarantee.

RSI CONFIRMATION

RSI can be used as an additional momentum filter. A bullish setup may be supported by RSI recovering from lower levels while price forms a suitable reversal structure. A bearish setup may be supported by RSI weakening from higher levels near resistance.

RSI > 70 does not automatically mean SELL, and RSI < 30 does not automatically mean BUY. Context remains essential.

MULTI-TIMEFRAME CONFIRMATION

Role	Example timeframe
Market trend	Daily
Setup	1 Hour
Entry	15 Minute

Timeframe combinations vary by trading style. The key idea is to separate trend, setup and entry rather than forcing every decision onto one timeframe.



Educational annotation • Prices/levels are taken from the supplied screenshot; entry/SL/targets are illustrative, not a recommendation.

2H CHART — CANDLESTICK TEACHING EXAMP

BULLISH BREAKOUT / LONG-UPPER-WICK CANDLE



Educational annotation • Prices/levels are taken from the supplied screenshot; entry/SL/targets are illustrative, not a recommendation.

BULLISH MARUBOZU / BREAKOUT CANDLE

EMA 100 close 0 1,674.53

Educational entry zone:
₹1,700-₹1,705
on confirmed breakout

Illustrative SL:
below breakout candle low
 $\approx ₹1,690$

TREND FILTER
EMA 20 > EMA 50 > EMA 100

%R 140 0.00

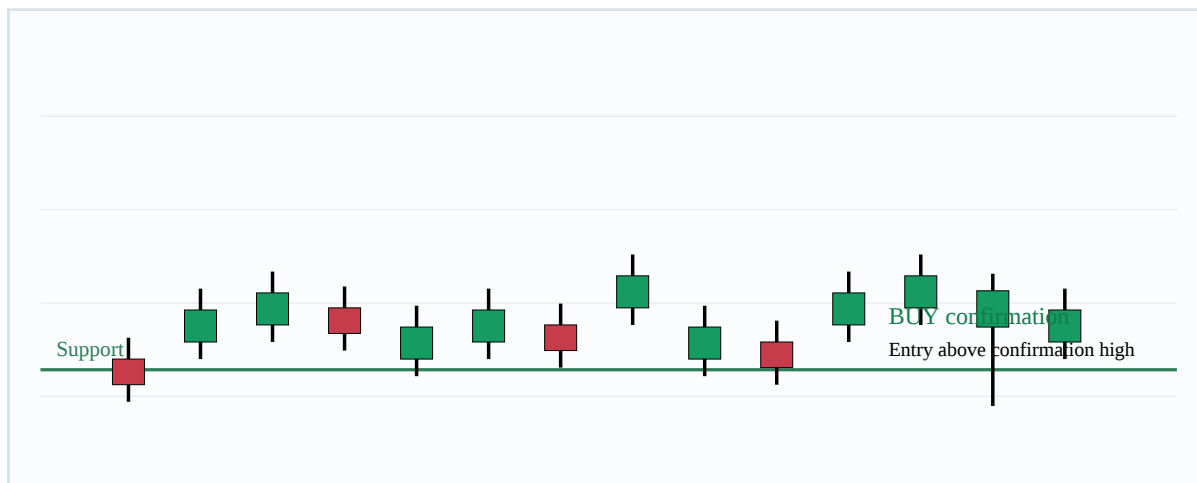


14:48:19 UTC+5:30 | % log auto

Educational annotation • Prices/levels are taken from the supplied screenshot; entry/SL/targets are illustrative, not a recommendation.

ACCOUNT Manager	Trade
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COMPLETE BUY EXAMPLE



Fictional educational example

Entry = 500

Stop Loss = 490

Risk = 10

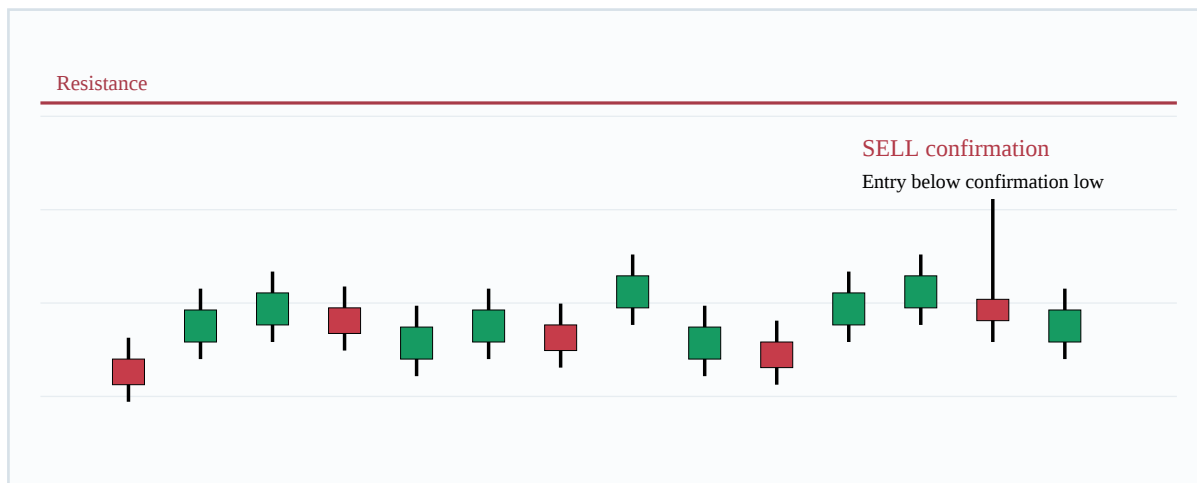
Target 1 = 520

Reward = 20

Risk : Reward = 1 : 2

The example is hypothetical and is not a prediction or recommendation.

COMPLETE SELL EXAMPLE



Fictional educational example

Entry = 500

Stop Loss = 510

Risk = 10

Target 1 = 480

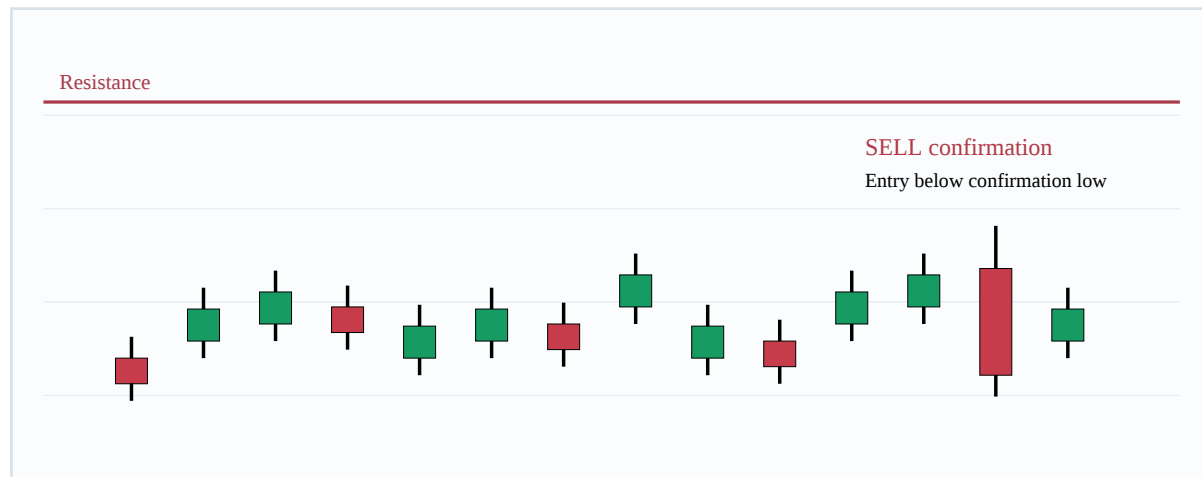
Reward = 20

Risk : Reward = 1 : 2

The example is hypothetical and is not a prediction or recommendation.

WHEN CANDLESTICK PATTERNS FAIL

- Pattern appears against a very strong trend.
- No confirmation.
- Weak or inconsistent volume.
- Poorly defined support/resistance.
- News-driven volatility.
- Very low liquidity.
- Overextended price.
- Choppy sideways market.



The goal is not to eliminate false signals. The goal is to define invalidation, control risk and follow a repeatable process.

PATTERN COMPARISON TABLE

Pattern	Type	Bias	Confirmation	Risk focus
HAMMER	Bullish	Bullish reversal candidate	Wait for confirmation above the hammer high...	Pattern invalidation
SHOOTING STAR	Bearish	Bearish reversal candidate	Wait for confirmation below the shooting-star...	Pattern invalidation
DOJI	Indecision	Indecision	Use surrounding candles, trend, support/resis...	Pattern invalidation
BULLISH ENGULFING	Bullish	Bullish reversal candidate	Look for follow-through above the pattern hig...	Pattern invalidation
BEARISH ENGULFING	Bearish	Bearish reversal candidate	Look for follow-through below the pattern low...	Pattern invalidation
PIERCING LINE	Bullish	Bullish reversal candidate	Look for follow-through above the pattern hig...	Pattern invalidation
DARK CLOUD COVER	Bearish	Bearish reversal candidate	Look for breakdown below the pattern low near...	Pattern invalidation
TWEEZER BOTTOM	Bullish	Bullish reversal candidate	Confirmation above the pattern high improves ...	Pattern invalidation
TWEEZER TOP	Bearish	Bearish reversal candidate	Confirmation below the pattern low improves t...	Pattern invalidation
MORNING STAR	Bullish	Bullish reversal candidate	Look for confirmation above the third candle ...	Pattern invalidation
EVENING STAR	Bearish	Bearish reversal candidate	Look for confirmation below the third candle ...	Pattern invalidation
THREE WHITE SOLDIERS	Bullish	Bullish continuation/reversal candidate	Use with trend/location and avoid chasing an ...	Pattern invalidation
THREE BLACK CROWS	Bearish	Bearish continuation/reversal candidate	Use with trend/location and confirmation....	Pattern invalidation
THREE INSIDE UP	Bullish	Bullish reversal/continuation candidate	Confirmation above the third candle high....	Pattern invalidation
THREE INSIDE DOWN	Bearish	Bearish reversal/continuation candidate	Confirmation below the third candle low....	Pattern invalidation
RISING THREE METHODS	Bullish	Bullish continuation	Confirmation above consolidation/high....	Pattern invalidation
FALLING THREE METHODS	Bearish	Bearish continuation	Confirmation below consolidation/low....	Pattern invalidation
INSIDE BAR	Compression	Compression / breakout setup	Use a predefined breakout direction and confi...	Pattern invalidation

QUICK REFERENCE CHEAT SHEET

BULLISH: Hammer • Bullish Engulfing • Morning Star • Piercing Line • Tweezer Bottom • Three White Soldiers

BEARISH: Shooting Star • Bearish Engulfing • Evening Star • Dark Cloud Cover • Tweezer Top • Three Black Crows

INDECISION: Doji • Spinning Top

CONTINUATION: Rising Three Methods • Falling Three Methods • Inside Bar

Quick rule: **Pattern + Location + Confirmation + Risk Management** is a more complete framework than pattern recognition alone.

FINAL TRADING CHECKLIST

- 1. What is the trend?
- 2. Where is support/resistance?
- 3. What pattern formed?
- 4. Is there confirmation?
- 5. Is volume supportive?
- 6. What is the entry?
- 7. Where is Stop Loss?
- 8. Where is Target?
- 9. What is the Risk/Reward?
- 10. Is there any major event/news risk?
- 11. Does the setup meet all predefined rules?

Final principle: A candlestick is a setup component, not a prediction engine. Build rules that can be tested, measured and repeated.

EDUCATIONAL DISCLAIMER

Candlestick patterns are probability-based price-action tools and do not guarantee future price movement. The examples in this guide are hypothetical and for educational purposes only. Always consider trend, support/resistance, volume, volatility, risk management and market conditions before making any trading decision. This material is not financial or investment advice.

This guide intentionally avoids presenting any candlestick pattern as a guaranteed or “100% accurate” Buy/Sell signal.

END OF GUIDE