

City Trader Gameplay FAQ

When I hire a woman, the person I see behind the desk appears to be a man. Is this normal?

Yes

From time to time, the radio newsflashes don't correspond very well with the text shown in the Information Centre. Is this normal?

Yes

One time, my broker was unhappy, so I gave him a raise of \$5000 and health cover of \$20000, but he was still unhappy. So I then gave him a cake and he gave me a big smile. Surely this can't be right.

This is caused by an updating delay. You must wait a short amount of time before seeing the Broker's expression reflect his current humor. So, he wasn't actually smiling because of the cake, but due to the raise and the health cover. Small presents make a broker happy, but for short periods, while the raise will have a long term effect on his level of happiness. When he is sad, a good tactic is to give him a present, followed by a raise.

In the PDA of the Press Attaché, I can choose the share to influence, but I cannot influence all of them. Is this normal?

Yes. You cannot influence an index itself (i.e. the Dow Jones), or the currencies, or the futures (bonds, national or international futures).

I started one go three times under the same conditions each time and compared the candidates for the post of analyst. The first 2 times, I had the same 4 candidates, but the third time I only had two of them. Is this supposed to happen?

Yes, the characteristics of each post are randomly generated at the start of each go. If your level of honesty or prestige are going to make a candidate unhappy, they will not apply until your characteristics correspond more to what they are looking for.

When I buy shares, they don't show up straight away in my portfolio. Is this normal?

In fact, your orders can take a short time to be accounted for, it depends on the liquidity of the market. So the order is definitely placed but there will be a short delay.

Can I deal in the market at night, when the stock exchange is closed?

Yes, you can do and should do. However, any orders made overnight will not be dealt with until the stock market opens the next morning.

Can I slow the game down?

Of course you can. Click on your personal agenda on your office desk then select on the options menu. Here, you have the possibility to change the speed that time passes. Don't try this at home kids!

I bought some options, and the total cost was displayed in the PDA in the portfolio screen. It fluctuated during the day, just like the share prices. But during the night, the share prices stop changing, but the value of the options keeps moving. I don't understand.

Options prices are calculated according to a certain number of factors, one of which is the share price, so when the share price moves, the option price changes too. The second factor in an option price, however, is the time remaining. The day before an option matures, for example, it is much less risky than a month before, so the option will be cheaper. This means that options prices go down over time. And time doesn't stop at night, so the option price doesn't either.

Sometimes, after buying an option, the number of options I own is displayed as 0 on the PDA screen of my portfolio, even though I have negative profit.

If an option is not in the money, the broker will not exercise it, which is why the number of options displayed is 0, precisely because the profit is negative.

OK, but what does 'in the money' mean!

Good question. It's very simple. An option is not 'in the money' if exercising it would mean that you lost money, so, if the price for a buy option is higher than the current share price, or if the price for a sell option is lower than the share price.

I selected a future on some shares. But I didn't own the shares. In the PDA, I saw a negative figure but behind this figure I was earning lots of money. If this indicates the money that I could make, then good, but my assets were also worth more. Is this normal?

Yes. Except that futures are not what you think. A future is a contract where you commit yourself to a transaction. When you 'sell' a future, you are in fact buying a contract to sell a share at a future date. This contract has a value, displayed on the portfolio screen (as a negative figure on your account plus the accumulated profit). Not having shares at this point is irrelevant. The profit displayed is not an indication of potential gains but on the assets you possess. You really are making a lot of money. Congratulations.

What is brokers' experience for?

Brokers' experience helps them to find lower commission costs and to process orders more quickly.

When I do ALT-TAB, or CTRL-ESC, to get to a different application, and I come back to the game, it is unstable.

Yes, these commands cannot be used. Before going to a different application, you have to save the current game and exit City Trader.

How can I lower employees' stress levels?

When the employee is not needed, his stress goes down slowly. Giving him a present lowers his stress, since the happier he is, the less stressed he is. The best way to lower his stress is to send him on holiday.