The exchange, and what a listing means

> **LISTING**
>
> A company's admission to trade on an exchange, in return for meeting its standards: audited accounts, free float minimums, continuous disclosure of anything price-sensitive. A listing buys a public order book and a disclosure regime - it does not buy liquidity, which lesson 7 shows is earned per name, never granted.

Shares existed before exchanges and trade beyond them now. What an exchange adds is the machinery this platform has described three times - and one thing no other track had: rules about what the company must tell you.

What listing standards actually buy a holder

Disclosure: listed companies must publish audited accounts and announce price-sensitive information promptly - the raw material of module 5, mandated by the listing itself.A public book: the central limit order book from the earlier tracks, now for the asset itself rather than a derivative of it.Standardised settlement: shares delivered against payment on a fixed cycle, with the plumbing invisible until module 8's corporate actions make it briefly visible.

The exchange is not the whole market

A large share's volume splits across the primary exchange, competing venues quoting the same name, and off-book trades reported after the fact. Retail orders themselves often execute against a market maker rather than on the exchange's book. None of this changes what you own - a share is a share however acquired - but it foreshadows lesson 5: the price you deal at is a routed, brokered thing, and the exchange print is its reference rather than its guarantee.

Why this matters on day one

Because the listing is the boundary of this track's subject. Unlisted companies exist and are owned, but without continuous disclosure, a public book and standard settlement, they are a different asset with different rules. Everything from here assumes the listed kind - the kind whose price updates every second and whose obligations to inform you are enforceable. That bargain, disclosure for access to public capital, is what a listing is.

Check your understanding

1. What does a listing guarantee, and what does it not?

a. It guarantees liquidity but not disclosure

b. It guarantees disclosure standards and a public venue - liquidity is earned per name and never granted by the listing itself

c. It guarantees the share price reflects fair value

Answer: b. Listing standards mandate what the company must publish and where it can trade. How much anyone wants to trade it is a property of the name - lesson 7's subject.

2. A retail buy order executes against a market maker rather than on the exchange book. What changed about the shares received?

a. They carry fewer voting rights

b. Nothing - a share is a share however acquired; what varies is the routing and price formation, which is lesson 5's subject

c. They settle on a slower cycle

Answer: b. Ownership is independent of execution path. The routed, brokered nature of retail dealing affects the price you get, never the thing you own.