Your quote is your broker's, and owning is not referencing

> **CASH VERSUS CFD**
>
> The two ways a retail account holds a name: cash ownership - actual shares, votes, dividends, held indefinitely - or a CFD referencing the share price, with the broker's quote, financing and counterparty attached. Equities is the first track where the wrapper is a choice rather than a necessity, and the choice changes the costs, the rights and the risks of the same idea.

Every track has had this lesson, and equities finally inverts it: here, unlike everywhere before, you can simply own the thing. The broker layer still exists - but now it is optional, and knowing which side of it you are on matters.

The cash route, and its routing

Buy shares through a broker and you own them - but the price you deal at is still a routed, brokered thing. The order may cross the exchange book, a competing venue, or a market maker's own quote; the broker's obligation is best execution against the public reference, not a teleport to the exchange print. The spread you cross and the moment you cross it are real costs - module 3's subject - but at the end, shares are yours: votes, dividends, no expiry, no financing meter.

The CFD route, familiar by now

The same name can be traded as a CFD: the broker's quote around the share price, nightly financing on the notional, leverage available, no shares owned - no votes, no direct dividend (an adjustment instead), and a counterparty between you and the asset. Three tracks of machinery transfer without edits. What is new is that here it is a choice, and the honest comparison - module 3 makes it in money - runs on holding period: financing meters punish long holds, while cash ownership pays its costs once and then simply sits.

The distinction that carries the track

Owning: the claim from lesson 1, with time on your side and module 4's warning attached - nothing ever forces your hand.Referencing: exposure to the price with the wrapper's costs and the wrapper's counterparty, and none of the ownership rights.The same chart, the same idea, different instruments: from here, every lesson that says 'your position' will care which one you actually hold.

Check your understanding

1. What does equities change about the broker-layer lesson every track has taught?

a. The broker layer disappears for equities

b. The wrapper becomes a choice: cash ownership exists alongside the CFD, and the same idea carries different costs and rights in each

c. CFDs are not available on single names

Answer: b. Prior tracks had no ownable underlying for retail; here there is one. Cash and CFD are different instruments on the same name - module 3 prices the difference, module 4 manages it.

2. A CFD holder on a dividend-paying share receives what?

a. The dividend, paid by the company

b. A broker adjustment referencing the dividend - the company pays owners, and a CFD holder is not one

c. Nothing - dividends do not affect CFDs

Answer: b. Ownership rights attach to shares, not references to their price. The wrapper mimics the cash flow through an adjustment while the votes and the actual claim stay with the shareholder.