The spread is a per-name fact

> **SPREAD PROFILE**
>
> A name's characteristic spread across the day and across conditions: its calm-hours normal, its open-auction width, its earnings-day stretch. Commodities varied the spread by contract month; equities varies it by name and by hour, and the profile - not the single glance - is what an execution plan is built on.

Commodities taught that one instrument carries many spreads - by month. Equities compresses that lesson into the day: one name, one book, and a spread that breathes with the clock and gasps with the news.

The daily shape

Spreads are widest at the open - the auction has batch-priced the overnight, and the continuous book starts sparse - then tighten through the morning to their calm-hours normal, and stay tight into the close's depth. The pattern is the commodities liquidity clock wearing equity clothes, and it prices the same discipline: the same order costs measurably more in the first minutes than an hour later, in any name, every day.

The per-name profile

Tier sets the base: module 1's hundredfold range means a 'normal' spread is a per-name fact to be learned, not assumed.News stretches it: spreads widen into scheduled earnings and snap wide on unscheduled announcements - makers step back from the coin toss exactly as commodity makers do before a report.Stress compounds it: the small-cap exit that cost 1% in calm costs several in panic - the module 1 warning, now as a number to budget rather than a caution to note.

Reading it, practically

Watch a name's touch for a week before trading it seriously: its calm normal, its open behaviour, its reaction to its sector's news. That profile is the execution half of module 3's cost arithmetic, and it converts the spread from a surprise into a scheduled expense. The reading habit transfers from every prior track; only the axis changed - months there, names and hours here.

Check your understanding

1. When is a liquid name's spread widest on an ordinary day?

a. At the close, when volume peaks
b. In the first minutes after the open, while the continuous book is still sparse behind the auction
c. At midday, during the lull

Answer: b. The open auction clears the overnight, but the continuous book takes time to thicken. The same order costs measurably more at 8:01 than at 9:30 - a scheduled expense, not bad luck.

2. How does the equities spread lesson differ from the commodities one?

a. Equity spreads are always tighter
b. The axis of variation moved: commodities varied the spread by contract month, equities varies it by name and by hour
c. Equity spreads do not widen on news

Answer: b. Same discipline - know the spread before the trade - different geometry. One name's book breathes with the clock, and the profile is learned per name, not per month.