10 checks before you follow a trading tip

Stock, crypto, forex or options - run these before any money moves. If two or more fail, do not send money.

1. **Who sent it?** Write down the full name, firm and phone number. Unknown sender or a new account is a warning.
2. **Is there a licence?** Look it up yourself on the regulator's register: SEBI (India), ASIC (Australia), FCA (UK), SEC or FINRA (US). Type the address; do not use their link.
3. **Do the details match the register?** Clone firms copy real names. Compare the phone, email and website with the register entry.
4. **Is the return guaranteed?** No licensed adviser can guarantee a return. 'Sure shot', 'risk-free' or 'double in a month' fails this check.
5. **Is there proof you can check?** Screenshots of profits are easy to fake. Ask for a full trade list with dates and losses.
6. **Are you being rushed?** 'Only today', 'last 3 seats' or a countdown is there to stop you checking.
7. **Where does the money go?** A personal bank account, UPI ID of a person, crypto wallet or gift card is a red flag. In India, registered intermediaries use UPI IDs ending in @valid.
8. **Were you moved to a private group?** Moving from a public post to WhatsApp or Telegram is a common first step in group scams.
9. **Can you withdraw?** A 'fee' or 'tax' to release your profit is a classic sign of a fake platform.
10. **Would you explain it to a friend?** If you cannot say in one sentence why the trade should work, pause.

Official registers (type the address yourself)

- [ ] India - SEBI registered intermediaries: sebi.gov.in · SEBI Check for UPI IDs (@valid)
- [ ] Australia - ASIC professional registers: asic.gov.au · investor alert list: moneysmart.gov.au
- [ ] UK - FCA register and warning list: fca.org.uk
- [ ] US - SEC/FINRA: investor.gov · brokercheck.finra.org

Already paid?

Stop paying, keep every message and receipt, call your bank now. Report: India cybercrime.gov.in / 1930 · Australia scamwatch.gov.au + cyber.gov.au · UK Action Fraud · US ic3.gov.

Check a message for free: paste it into Tip Check at tradingcheckup.com/tools/tip-check/ - it shows which published warning signs it matches. It cannot prove a message is safe or a scam.

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