Free Forex Book Evaluation Checklist

Use this printable checklist before trusting a free forex PDF, e-book, online book, or study file.

Risk note: Forex and CFD trading involve risk of loss. Educational material can improve understanding, but it cannot guarantee profit, prevent losses, remove leverage risk, or replace personal risk control. Do not risk money needed for living expenses, debt payments, health care, family obligations, or emergency savings.

How to use the checklist

Mark each item before reading or applying any idea. Skip material that promises guaranteed profit, hides the author, pushes signals before explaining risk, or asks for money under pressure.

Decision rule

Score	Decision
18-20	Strong study candidate. Read actively, take notes, and test ideas safely before any live exposure.
12-17	Use with caution. Keep only the basic lessons and verify unclear claims before practice.
0-11	Skip or read only as a claim to question. Do not use the material to guide trades.
Any guaranteed-profit claim	Skip regardless of score.

Checklist

1. Source and legality	Mark
The file comes from an official author, publisher, school, or education library.	[ ]
The download source is clear and does not hide ownership.	[ ]
The file is not an unauthorized copy of a paid book.	[ ]
A date, edition, or last-updated note is visible.	[ ]

2. Author and credibility	Mark
The author name is visible.	[ ]
The author's background or teaching role can be checked.	[ ]
The material explains who it is for: beginner, chart reader, strategy learner, psychology, or risk.	[ ]
The writing uses realistic language instead of quick-income promises.	[ ]

3. Risk and trust	Mark
The material clearly says trading involves risk.	[ ]
It explains losing trades, drawdown, invalidation, or account protection.	[ ]
It avoids claims such as risk-free, no loss, secret system, or guaranteed income.	[ ]
It warns the reader to test ideas before live trading.	[ ]

4. Strategy quality	Mark
Any setup includes entry, exit, invalidation, and risk rules.	[ ]
Examples include limits or weak conditions, not only winning examples.	[ ]
Costs such as spread, slippage, swap, volatility, or execution pressure are mentioned where relevant.	[ ]
The material does not ask the reader to copy a trade without understanding it.	[ ]

5. Fit and next action	Mark
The material matches the reader's current learning stage.	[ ]
Important terms are explained or easy to look up.	[ ]
The lesson can be practiced on charts, a demo account, or a journal without real-money pressure.	[ ]
A clear next step is possible after reading.	[ ]

Red flags

Red flag	Why it matters
Guaranteed returns	Trading outcomes are uncertain. Guarantees are not credible risk education.
Anonymous author	Money education needs accountability and clear authorship.
Only profit screenshots	Screenshots can hide deposits, withdrawals, losing periods, fees, and drawdown.
Pressure to buy signals or account management	A free book can become a sales funnel before the reader understands risk.
No discussion of losses	A trading method that never mentions losses is incomplete.
Copied or pirated file	Unauthorized copies can be illegal, incomplete, outdated, or altered.

Final decision

Decision	Mark	Reason
Read	[ ]	The source, author, risk language, and learning fit are acceptable.
Read with caution	[ ]	The material may help with basics, but some claims need verification.
Skip	[ ]	The material hides important context, makes unsafe claims, or does not fit the learning need.

Reader action

Prompt	Your note
One idea worth testing safely	
One risk rule to write before practice	
One behavior to avoid	
One journal field to add	
One topic to review before live trading	