

MODULE 5, LESSON 1.1 WORKSHEET



Choosing Your Broker Without Losing Thousands

Investing Essentials for Beginners

Key Concepts at a Glance

- **Broker (Investing Platform):** The service that lets you buy, hold, and track investments like ETFs, index funds, and shares.
- **Stocks & Shares ISA:** A tax wrapper that protects your investments from UK taxes.
- **Fees:** Costs that reduce your returns over time, often quietly.
- **Core Idea:** The right platform keeps investing simple and low-cost, so more of your money stays invested.

A Simple Example

Two investors buy the same index fund for the same number of years.

One uses a low-fee platform.

The other pays higher platform and trading fees.

The second investor can end up with much less money, even though they invested in the same fund.

That's because fees compound in the wrong direction.

The 3 Non-Negotiables

- 1. Stocks & Shares ISA available:** If a platform doesn't offer an ISA for UK investing, it's usually not worth using for long-term investing.
- 2. Low, transparent fees:** Know what you're paying and why, including platform fees, trading fees, and fund fees.
- 3. Easy to use and offers the investments you want:** A clean interface and access to the index funds or ETFs you plan to buy matters more than fancy tools.

Before choosing any broker, make sure it meets these three basics

Take a Moment to Reflect

- Do I understand what a broker actually does for me?

- Does my preferred platform offer a Stocks & Shares ISA?

- Have I checked the fees clearly, including platform, trading, and fund fees?

- Would I feel confident using this platform consistently every month?

- Does the platform offer the index funds or ETFs I want to invest in?

Key Takeaway

You don't need the "**best**" broker.
You need a broker that is ISA-ready, low-fee, and easy for you to stick with.

What Comes Next?

In the next lessons, we'll go step-by-step with screen recordings showing how to: open an account, deposit money, find index funds, and place your first investment consistently.

This worksheet is for educational purposes only and does not constitute financial advice.

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