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Intrinsic and Time Value



Time Value vs. Intrinsic Value



- Time value is the component of an option that erodes to zero as an option approaches expiration.
- Intrinsic value is the component of an option that reflects the real value and does not erode with time.
- Intrinsic value is directly related to the value of the underlying security.



“At-The-Money” Call Option



- A call option is referred to as “at-the-money” when the stock and strike prices are equal or close together.



“At-The-Money” Call Option



- XYZ is trading at \$50.00 a share.
- The XYZ one-month \$50-strike call option is trading at \$2.00.
- The call buyer has the right to buy the shares at \$50.00. However, the underlying is trading at \$50.00.
- There is no intrinsic value in the option.



“At-The-Money” Call Option



- \$50.00 share / \$50.00 strike
- The \$2.00 option premium is pure time value.
- If nothing happens, then the option will expire worthless in one month.



“Out-Of-The-Money” Call Option



- A call option is referred to as “out-of-the-money” when the stock price is less than the strike price.



“Out-Of-The-Money” Call Option



- XYZ is trading at \$45.00 a share.
- The XYZ one-month \$50-strike call option is trading at \$0.30.
- The call buyer has the right to buy it at \$50.00. However, the underlying is trading at \$45.00.
- There is no intrinsic value in the option.



“Out-Of-The-Money” Call Option



- \$45.00 share / \$50.00 strike.
- The \$0.30 option premium is pure time value.
- If nothing happens, then the option will expire worthless in one month.



“In-The-Money” Call Option



- A call option is referred to as “in-the-money” when the stock price is greater than the strike price.



“In-The-Money” Call Option



- XYZ is trading at \$55.00 a share.
- The XYZ one-month \$50-strike call option is trading at \$5.50.
- The call buyer has the right to buy shares at \$50.00 and XYZ is trading at \$55.00.
- There is a \$5.00 intrinsic value in the option.



“In-The-Money” Call Option



- \$55.00 share / \$50.00 strike
- The \$5.50 option premium is broken into:
 - \$5.00 intrinsic value
 - \$0.50 time value
- If nothing happens come expiration, then the option will be exercised because it has a \$5.00 intrinsic or real value.



“At-The-Money” Put Option



- A put option is referred to as “at-the-money” when the stock and strike prices are equal or close together.



“At-The-Money” Put Option



- XYZ is trading at \$50.00 a share.
- The XYZ one-month \$50-strike put option is trading at \$1.90.
- The put buyer has the right to sell the shares at \$50.00 and XYZ is trading at \$50.00.
- There is no intrinsic value in the option.



“At-The-Money” Put Option



- \$50.00 share / \$50.00 strike
- The \$1.90 option premium is pure time value.
- If nothing happens, then the option will expire worthless in one month.



“Out-Of-The-Money” Put Option



- A put option is referred to as “out-of-the-money” when the stock price is greater than the strike price.



“Out-Of-The-Money” Put Option



- XYZ is trading at \$55.00 a share.
- The XYZ one-month \$50-strike put option is trading at \$0.25.
- The put buyer has the right to sell the shares at \$50.00 and the shares are trading at \$55.00.
- There is no intrinsic value in the option.



“Out-Of-The-Money” Put Option



- \$55.00 share / \$50.00 strike
- The \$0.25 option premium is pure time value.
- If nothing happens, then the option will expire worthless in one month.



“In-The-Money” Put Option



- A put option is referred to as “in-the-money” when the stock price is less than the strike price.



“In-The-Money” Put Option



- XYZ is trading at \$45.00 a share.
- The XYZ one-month \$50-strike put option is trading at \$5.40.
- The put buyer has the right to sell the underlying at \$50.00 and the shares are trading at \$45.00.
- There is a \$5.00 intrinsic value in the option.



“In-The-Money” Put Option



- \$45.00 share / \$50.00 strike
- The \$5.40 option premium is broken into:
 - \$5.00 intrinsic value
 - \$0.40 time value
- If nothing happens come expiration, then the option will be exercised because it has a \$5.00 real value.



Picking The Right Option



Advantages of “at-the-money” options:

- If you are right, the intrinsic value starts to be realized immediately.
- The at-the-money options tend to be the most active and liquid.



Picking The Right Option



Disadvantages of “at-the-money” options:

- The options are the most expensive from a time value perspective.



Picking The Right Option



Advantages of “out-of-the-money” options:

- They require the least amount of capital.
- Provide the greatest leverage.



Picking The Right Option



Disadvantages of “out-of-the-money” options:

- The time component erodes quicker.
- You need a bigger move in the stock to realize intrinsic value.
- Higher probability of expiring worthless.



Picking The Right Option



Advantages of “in-the-money” options:

- They are more expensive, because you are buying intrinsic value on top of the time value.
- Provide the less leverage.
- Time decay is only effecting a portion of the option price.



Picking The Right Option



Disadvantages of “in-the-money” options:

- Require more upfront investment.
- A wrong move in the stock can see the intrinsic value disappear.





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