Analysis & Understanding

Reading what's actually on the chart, not what you want to see. Structure first, indicators last.

The top-down hierarchy

You never start on the entry timeframe. You work down to it from a bias timeframe two or three steps higher.

Layer	Timeframe	What you're looking for
Bias	D1 / H4	Trend direction. Range or break.
Context	H4 / H1	Key levels. Liquidity above/below.
Entry	M15 / M5	Setup confirmation. Trigger.
Execute	M1	Final structure. Stop placement.

The 4-step read

1. **Bias** — is the market trending or ranging on the D1/H4?
2. **Liquidity** — where are obvious stop pools (above swing highs, below swing lows)?
3. **Reaction** — has price reached one of those pools and reacted?
4. **Trigger** — has the lower timeframe shifted (break of structure, displacement) in your direction?

Structure terms

- **HH / HL** — higher high, higher low. Uptrend structure.
- **LL / LH** — lower low, lower high. Downtrend structure.
- **BoS** — break of structure. The trend continues.
- **CHoCH** — change of character. The trend may be reversing.
- **Liquidity grab** — price spikes through a level and reverses. Usually institutional stop-hunting.

Top-down read in 90 seconds

D1	H4	M15
Direction: bullish. HH/HL holding. Last swing low at 1.0820.	Price approaching previous resistance 1.0900. Liquidity above sits at 1.0930.	Liquidity grab above 1.0930 → CHoCH down. Now looking for short.

Analysis sins (audit yourself)

- Drawing 8 trendlines until one fits.
- Switching bias to match the trade you want.
- Entering against the H4 bias because "this M5 looks good".
- Confirming with 4 indicators after deciding on the entry.
- Calling everything an "order block" without strict criteria.

Indicators — confirm, don't generate

Indicators are a sanity check. They do not create setups. Read the chart first, then check that the indicator agrees. If you find yourself flipping the indicator on/off to "make the setup work", you are no longer trading the method — you are trading hope.

Practical: use the Orion stack

- **Daily Bias (free)** — quick directional read.
- **Orion Order Flow** — reads who's in control on the M5.
- **Money In / Money Out** — order-flow approximation.
- **COT Display** — institutional positioning.
- **Protocol 7** — high-probability zone highlighter.

The Orion read — bias, pivotals, liquidity, the window

Orion's execution read runs on the **M5 (5-minute)** — that's where you read **major order flow**: who is actually in control right now. Layer it like this:

- **Bias & directional targets** — establish direction and where price is trying to go (the Daily Bias does this fast).
- **Market pivotals** — the key levels price pivots from. Mark where you expect a reaction, not every line on the chart.
- **Liquidity / liquid bars** — institutional liquidity pools above the highs and below the lows are the magnets; they are your targets *and* your triggers.
- **The window** — the buyside / sellside zone (and time) you actually execute in. Wait for it; don't chase outside it.
- **Swing structures & ranges** — track the swing structure to stay on the right side of the move and manage range dynamics within the order flow.
- **Fractal price** — the same structure repeats across timeframes, which is exactly why the top-down read works.

Context is the key. The same M5 signal means opposite things in different context — read the bias and the pivotals first; the trigger only matters once the context is right. (See: 3-Stage Trading Model · Learn to Read Order Flow · Trading Core.)

If you remember nothing else

1. Top-down — bias before context before entry.
2. Liquidity-first — find the obvious stop pools.
3. Wait for the sweep then the shift. Don't pre-empt.
4. Indicators confirm; the chart generates.
5. If you're drawing more than 3 lines on the chart, you're forcing it.