

## Ever heard of a 'chalkie'?

Now that you have learnt more about shares and the sharemarket and experienced the almost instant processing of orders online, did you ever wonder...how on earth did they do this without the Internet?

Well, let's take a look.

Initially trading took place using **a call system** (1861 to 1961).

Using this system a reader called the names of each company and brokers made a bid or offer. Stocks were called 3 times a day. This system was limited as the market was only open for a very short period each day and there were far fewer companies listed on the market back then. Watch the video below to see how the call system worked.

**Enter the chalkie!** In the 1960s trading changed to **a post system** (1961 – 1990) where "chalkies" wrote bids and offers continuously in chalk on blackboards, as operators who worked for brokers called out orders.

All of this made for a very noisy trading floor. Watch the chalkies in action below to see how it all happened.

With the post system everything that was written on the boards was also typed into a price reporting system. The limitation was that during busy times there could be quite a delay between changes of prices on the boards and when they appeared on screens via the price reporting systems.

The advantage of the 'post trading' system over the call system, was that the market was open for longer - from 10 am to noon and from 2 to 3.30 pm. Back then there were share markets in each State and prices for the same shares could differ between States.

In 1987 a screen based trading system was introduced and the individual state stock exchanges were combined to form the Australian Stock Exchange. It started with just a limited range of stocks, and slowly all stocks were moved to this system and the trading floors were closed in 1990. Everyone, no matter where they lived could now trade in the same market at the same prices.

So there you have it, a little bit of history – now back to today.

**Please note to be eligible for prizes**, you must have purchased shares, within the Game, in at least 4 different companies over the Game Period.

## Game update

