



Interpreting accounts

Aim: to help you make sense of a set of published accounts

Course length: one day

“As part of my job I have to examine sets of accounts for customers, suppliers or competitors. I understand bits of them, but there are usually 20 pages plus. Most of the rest I can’t make sense of.” Lots of people feel this way when faced with a set of accounts. They are an imposing document, and difficult to make sense of. This course aims to help you understand more about them.

The course will be built around case studies, looking at accounts for real companies. It will start off with the basics, and dig deeper. By the end of the day you will feel more confident in finding your way around the accounts, know what the different sections are telling you, and understand the ratios that help explain the accounts.

Who is the course for?

This course is for anyone who has to analyse sets of company accounts as part of their job.

By the end of this course you will:

- understand the contents of a set of accounts
- feel confident finding your way around the key documents and supporting notes
- understand the key ratios used to analyse accounts
- be aware of what has not been included in the accounts
- understand how the accounts can be massaged, and what clues to look for

Contents

The basics of accounts
The Profit & Loss Account & its jargon
The Balance Sheet & its jargon
The full set of accounts
Ratios and accounts analysis
What’s not there?
Have the figures been interfered with?
The audit report