

For anyone starting their trading journey in 2026, one question comes up frequently: **Is MetaTrader 5 (MT5) better than MetaTrader 4 (MT4) for beginners in the UK?** Both platforms have loyal users, but choosing the right platform—and the right broker—is essential for smooth onboarding, safety, and a successful start.

In this guide, I'll dive into the key differences between MT4 and MT5 from a beginner's perspective, especially around UK regulations, protection schemes, demo trading opportunities, and minimum deposits. I'll also mention some FCA-regulated brokers you'll want to consider, like **TIOmarkets (TIO Markets UK Ltd)**, **Plus500 (Plus500UK Ltd)**, and **IG Group**.

MetaTrader 4 vs MetaTrader 5: The Basics

MT4 has been the gold standard forex <https://www.deeside.com/best-7-beginner-friendly-forex-brokers-uk-2026/> trading platform for well over a decade, while MT5 was introduced later with some additional features and market types.

Feature	MetaTrader 4 (MT4)	MetaTrader 5 (MT5)
Release Year	2005	2010
Market Coverage	Primarily forex and CFDs	Forex, CFDs, stocks, futures, options
Order Types	4 types	6 types (more flexible)
Timeframes	9	21
Programming Language	MQL4 (older, simpler)	MQL5 (more powerful)
Community & Support	Large and well-established	Growing, but MT4 still dominant

For beginners, MT4's simplicity is a major plus, but MT5's newer features allow for more varied trading styles and markets.

FCA Regulation and Safety Basics: What UK Beginner Traders Must Know

The financial conduct landscape in the UK is one of the strictest worldwide, thanks to the **Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)**. Before you open an account with any **MetaTrader 5 broker UK** or **MT4 broker UK**, always check the FCA register and quote their Financial Services Register Number (FRN) to verify legitimacy.

For example:

- TIO Markets UK Ltd is FCA regulated with FRN 794785.
- Plus500UK Ltd is FCA regulated with FRN 509909.
- IG Group is FCA regulated with FRN 04008957.

These FCA-regulated brokers must adhere to strict rules on capital requirements, client money segregation, and fair treatment. This significantly reduces the risk of fraud, giving UK beginners essential peace of mind.

FSCS Protection: What It Covers and What It Doesn't

The **Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS)** offers protection to retail clients if a UK broker goes bust. It covers up to £85,000 per person, per firm, which is reassuring for traders keeping their funds with an FCA-regulated broker.

However, FSCS protection does NOT cover losses due to market movements or trading mistakes—only broker insolvency or mismanagement issues.

Minimum Deposits and Starting Small: Getting Practical

Brokers vary widely on minimum deposit levels. For UK beginner traders, starting small is crucial to managing risk and learning trading mechanics without overexposure.

Broker Platform Options Minimum Deposit FCA Registration No. TIOmarkets (TIO Markets UK Ltd) MT4 and MT5 From £100 794785 Plus500 (Plus500UK Ltd) Proprietary platform, limited MT4/MT5 access £100 509909 IG Group Proprietary platform, MT4 available £250 04008957

While IG Group's minimum deposit is notably higher, both TIOmarkets and Plus500 offer smaller entry points suited to beginners. TIOmarkets also stands out by offering both MT4 and MT5, making it easier for beginners to switch platforms as they gain experience.

Why Start Small

- Reduces emotional stress and temptation to overtrade.
- Allows you to develop and test your trading strategy with minimal risk.
- Enables proper money management.

Demo Accounts and Practice Routines: Your First Step

One of the biggest advantages for beginners is the ability to use a **forex demo account UK** to practice—risk-free—before committing real money. Both MT4 and MT5 support demo accounts, and brokers like TIOmarkets and IG provide free access to realistic virtual accounts.

Demo accounts let you:

- Learn order placement and platform navigation.
- Test trading strategies without risking capital.
- Understand market behavior and news impact.
- Get comfortable with stop-loss and take-profit orders.

Tip: Treat your demo account like live money. Set strict stop levels and trading limits to build discipline.

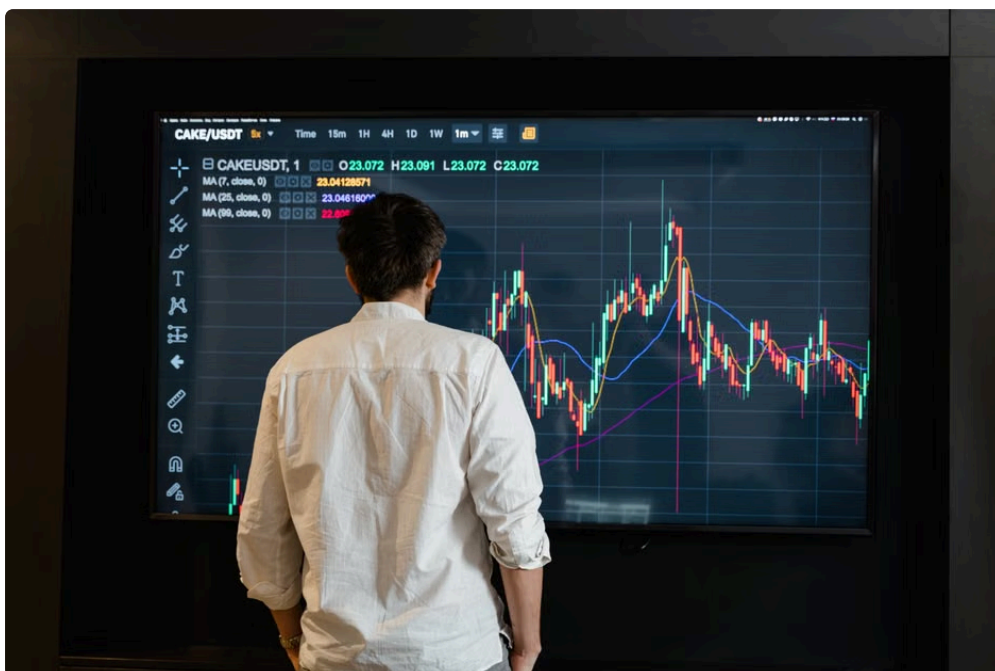
Which Demo Account is Better: MT4 or MT5?

Both platforms offer free demo accounts that mirror real market conditions. However, MT5's extended market coverage means you can practice trading stocks, commodities, and futures alongside forex—and explore advanced order types.

MT4 demo accounts tend to be simpler, focusing on currency pairs and CFDs, which some beginners prefer to avoid overwhelming complexity.

Is MT5 Better Than MT4 for UK Beginners in 2026?

After breaking down the factors, here's where the comparison stands for UK beginners:



1. **Regulation and Safety:** Both platforms are offered by FCA-regulated brokers (like TIOmarkets, Plus500, and IG), so safety depends more on the broker than the platform.
2. **Complexity vs. Features:** MT4 is simpler and excellent for pure forex beginners. MT5 offers more tools and instrument types if you want to diversify early.
3. **Demo Experience:** Both allow risk-free demo trading, but MT5's wider market access lets beginners experiment if curious about multi-asset trading.
4. **Getting Started with Small Deposits:** TIOmarkets stands out by offering both MT4 and MT5 with starting deposits from £100.

If you want to focus solely on forex and keep things straightforward, starting with MT4 on a trusted FCA broker like TIOmarkets or IG is a solid choice. But if you plan to expand into stocks, commodities, or want more advanced order types, MT5 gives you headroom to grow.

Final Thoughts: What Should UK Beginner Traders Do?

Step 1: Choose an FCA-regulated broker. Checking the FCA register for the broker's FRN ensures your deposits are safeguarded under FSCS up to £85,000.

Step 2: Open a free demo account with the broker supporting your platform of choice. Practice thoroughly.

Step 3: Start trading small real money with tight risk controls once you gain confidence.

Remember, no platform guarantees profits—discipline, education, and good broker support matter just as much.

If you want to explore both *MetaTrader 5 broker UK* and *MT4 broker UK* options with proper FSCS protection and accessible minimum deposits, **TIOmarkets** is an excellent place to start in 2026.

Always beware of claims like “tight spreads” without clear numbers and avoid brokers that overpromise returns. Trading is a learning journey, and the right platform combined with solid regulatory backing is your best foundation.

Author: Former retail trading support rep turned finance writer with 11 years helping UK traders onboard safely with FCA brokers like TIOmarkets, Plus500, and IG Group.