Title: Just a reminder to DRS NOW!!!

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The second method is to buy a stock or bond through a brokerage firm. Under this scheme, the broker's name, not the purchaser's name, is listed on the company's books. The brokerage house holds the security in "book-entry form." This simply means that ownership of the security is listed electronically, because you don't receive a paper certificate.

"Book-entry" might be a little misleading because there aren't any actual company books anymore. Everything is done digitally now. This second form of registration is also called "Street Name" because of the broker's role.

The third method of buying and holding stocks is to buy them directly from a company and let the company hang onto them. Called the "Direct Registration System," this method registers securities in the purchaser's name on the company's books. The stock in this case is held in book-entry form, so it's a hybrid of the first and second options.