Interpreting Stock Quotes

A stock quote provides you with pricing information. This information helps you determine whether a particular stock is a good investment or not. Different financial news and research sites may organize their stock information differently, but will provide essentially the same information. The example below is taken from a NYSE stock quote.

Company			
The name of the company.			
Symbol	**Last Trade**	**Change**	**Volume**
The company's stock/ticker symbol	The last trading price (or closing price if the trading day is over) of the stock on this particular day.	The increase or decrease in the stock's price between today's last price and the closing price of the previous trading day.	The total number of shares traded so far today.
Today's			
Open	**High**		**Low**
The first trade of stock today is its opening price.	This entry shows the highest price the stock has traded at so far today.		This entry shows the lowest price the stock has traded at so far today.
Previous Day's			
Close		**NYSE Only Close**	
The previous close is the stock's closing price on the previous trading day.		The previous day's NYSE Only Close is recorded at 4:30PM ET and is specific to the NYSE.	
52 Week			
High		**Low**	
This is the highest price of the stock within 52 weeks.		This is the lowest price of the stock within 52 weeks.	
P/E Ratio	A company's closing price divided by its latest annual earnings per share.		
Indicated Annual Dividend	A dividend is a portion of the company's profits that it pays to stockholders.		
Beta Coefficent	Beta is a measure of a stock's price volatility relative to the market.		
Earnings per Share	A company's profit or earnings divided equally among all the shares investors own		
Yield (%)	Yield is calculated as Annual Dividend (iad) / Previous Day Close Price) * 100.		
Market Cap (billion)	The total current market value of all outstanding shares of a company.		
Shares Outstanding	The shares outstanding value (SHO) on nyse.com contains the number of shares of outstanding stock held by shareholders, it does not encompass treasury shares.		

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