

## April 2009 *MoneyMinute* – Great Source for Clear Financial Information

By Julie Schatz, CFP®

Our clients tend to be sharper than the average investor. For this reason we like to offer good information resources when we find them. The website for the public radio show “Marketplace” offers visual explanations of confusing or complex financial terms and topics that you hear or read about.

These brief videos (usually 5-8 minutes) are presented by the senior editor of Marketplace, Paddy Hirsch. Hirsch uses a whiteboard to illustrate complex transactions depicting all of the parties involved in these transactions. He tells stories and uses metaphors even the least financial viewer can appreciate.

You get the added benefit of Hirsch’s slight Irish accent and British slang. My favorite being “dodgy,” which translates as suspicious or questionable.

Here are a few that may be of interest to you. There are many more at the website:

<http://marketplace.publicradio.org/videos/whiteboard/>

**Collateral calls:** Specifically Paddy Hirsch uses the example of the collateral calls received by AIG

[http://marketplace.publicradio.org/videos/whiteboard/collateral\\_calls.shtml](http://marketplace.publicradio.org/videos/whiteboard/collateral_calls.shtml)

**Cramdowns:** Altering loan conditions to deal with foreclosures

<http://marketplace.publicradio.org/videos/whiteboard/cramdowns.shtml>

**Toxic assets:** What makes an asset toxic, exactly?

[http://marketplace.publicradio.org/videos/whiteboard/toxic\\_assets.shtml](http://marketplace.publicradio.org/videos/whiteboard/toxic_assets.shtml)

**Mark-to-market:** How it affects bank balance sheets

[http://marketplace.publicradio.org/videos/whiteboard/mark\\_to\\_market.shtml](http://marketplace.publicradio.org/videos/whiteboard/mark_to_market.shtml)

**‘Bad banks’:** A good thing?

[http://marketplace.publicradio.org/videos/whiteboard/bad\\_banks.shtml](http://marketplace.publicradio.org/videos/whiteboard/bad_banks.shtml)

**Hedge funds:** A look inside

[http://marketplace.publicradio.org/videos/whiteboard/hedge\\_funds.shtml](http://marketplace.publicradio.org/videos/whiteboard/hedge_funds.shtml)

**Closing note:** Please remember to make your IRA contributions (whether deductible or non-deductible) by April 15. Many of you may be preparing for Roth conversions beginning in 2010 when the AGI limitation for Roth conversions will be eliminated.

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