

# The S Curve

On my trip to Canada for the [EO](#) Conference, [Peter Thomas](#), who I introduced in the last blog, (founded Century 21 in Canada and took it to 9 billion in sales) spoke to us about the [S Curve](#).

I spent many years in the investment world and back in the early nineties I went through the [Chartered Financial Analyst](#) (CFA) program. We discussed the [S curve](#) in depth, which depicts the life cycle of a business. With the S tilted forward a little, you can see how a growing company starts out flat for a bit, then takes strong spurt upward and then levels off and starts to decline. This is the life cycle of most businesses, usually lasting 5 to 7 years. Hang on for a second if you think this may not be relevant to you.